4 Chinese kidnapped while paying ransom

STORY ON PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2001 ★★ 40 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 247 ₱15

Zumel, ex-newsman and NDF leader, dies

ZUMEL

EX-NEWSMAN Antonio Zumel, a ranking leader of the National Democratic Front, died yesterday in the Netherlands of kidney failure. He was 69.

At the time of his death, the former reporter of the Philippines Herald and the

ZUMEL/ A14

Wine drinkers are healthier, richer, brighter

MAS OK AKO!
HUUUU! LASHENG KA LANG!

CHICAGO—Wine drinkers were found to have healthier habits and psyches and were less likely to abuse alcohol compared to beer drinkers.

A study in Denmark of almost 700 adults aged 29

WINE/ A14

Kim: I'm Ping's pal but not a drug lord

Vic says raps being readied vs businessman

ISAFP chief Victor Corpus holds photo of alleged drug lord and Lacson's friend Kim Wong.

DENNIS SABANGAN

BY CARLITO PABLO,
ARMAND NOCUM
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

BUSINESSMAN Kim Wong, owner of the Seafood Wharf restaurant along Manila Bay, yesterday issued a statement challenging military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to prove allegations that he was a drug lord and Sen. Panfilo Lacson's contact to a Hong Kong triad.

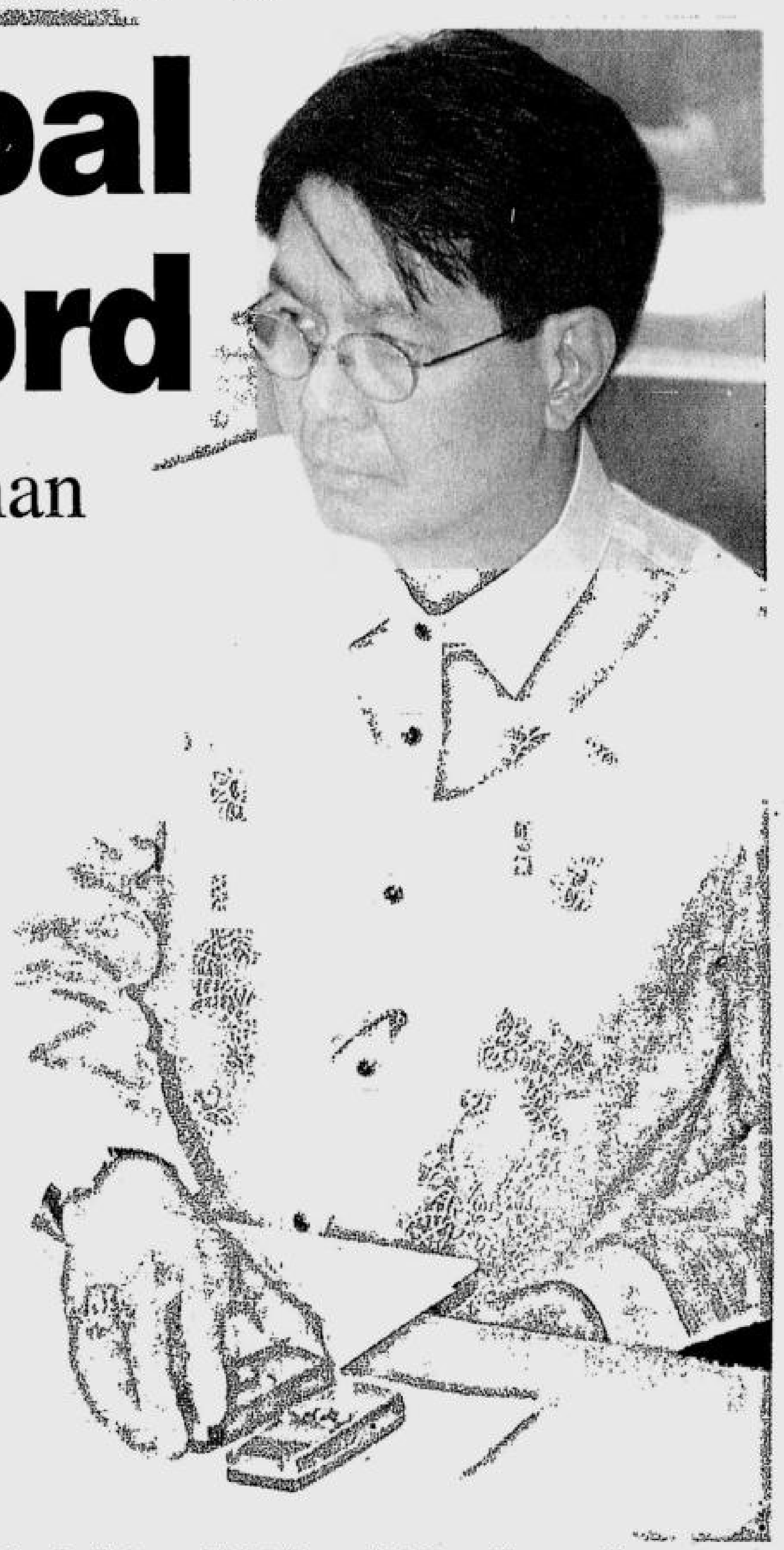
"I am not a drug lord. I do not belong to any Hong Kong Triad or have any personal knowledge or contact with any such group. I just happen to be a friend of Sen. Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson who has been accused of almost every crime imaginable," the Chinese-Filipino businessman, a contributor to Lacson's senatorial campaign, said in a statement released through a publicist.

For his part, Lacson insisted that Corpus had the wrong Wong. He said that the Chinese-Filipino businessman only happened to share the same name with a suspected Taiwanese drug lord, and that the intelligence chief had the two confused.

Corpus' "latest allegation regarding my involvement in illegal drugs is pure fabrication, a figment of his imagination," according to Wong, who challenged him "to substantiate his charges against me in court or else I will file charges against him!"

But Corpus, in a news briefing yesterday, said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) was "preparing charges against" Wong and would "come out in due

KIM/ A14



BESIEGED Sen. Panfilo Lacson tells intelligence chief: You got the wrong Wong.

JESS YUSON

Bishops tell gov't: If you have goods on Ping, file raps

BY CARLITO PABLO,
TJ BURGONIO
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

CATHOLIC bishops yesterday broke their weeklong silence on money-laundering and drug-trafficking allegations against Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr., and urged military and police intelligence officials to file criminal charges against him if they have sufficient evidence.

Back from a trip to Bangladesh, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said: "If indeed sufficient evidence has been gathered in support of these allegations, then the charges should be immediately filed in a court of law."

"The investigations that have been started should continue . . . And through the court can justice be dispensed, regardless of the personalities involved," he added.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, yesterday said that government investigators plan to file a case in court, but still lack sufficient evidence to support the allegations against Lacson.

"Personally, I think we have to get more evidence," Mendoza said when asked if the composite investigating team of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has gathered sufficient evidence to indict Lacson.

"We're just winding up our investigation. We're going to file a case in court," he added.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus yesterday faxed to Lacson's office a waiver that he had prepared for the senator to sign, but the latter refused, offering a legislative alternative instead.

Lacson's waiver of his rights under bank secrecy laws would give the Isafp full access to bank records of accounts that Corpus believes contain laundered drug money.

"If he refuses to sign it then it shows he is hiding a lot of things," said Corpus, who claims to have evidence that Lacson hid at least $211 million in banks in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong.

Although he declined to sign the

BISHOPS/ A14

Ombudsman orders probe of telecom scandal

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THERE may be grounds for the Office of the Ombudsman to take jurisdiction over the alleged telecommunications franchise scandal that has rocked Malacañang.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told reporters yesterday that he had ordered a formal investigation of the matter because in their initial questioning of some of the persons implicated, the members of the fact-finding team he formed had detected "some impropriety."

Desierto would not name the persons already questioned by his men, but he confirmed during the interview that they included President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, First

OMBUDSMAN/ A14

GMA: Give Moro self-rule a chance

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

COTABATO CITY—Everyone is saying no, except President Macapagal-Arroyo.

On the eve of a crucial plebiscite in Mindanao, the President yesterday urged voters to give Muslim self-rule a chance amid strong opposition from Christian areas as well as Moro rebel groups.

"Let us resolve to forge unity out of our diversity, to make ourselves complete and united despite differences in faith and culture," Ms Macapagal told local officials during a brief visit to Cotabato City.

"Let us help turn the ARMM plebiscite into a day of reconciliation and brotherhood for Philippine Muslims and Christians."

Voters in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi—the four provinces comprising the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao—will be asked if they want the ARMM expanded.

Voters in 11 provinces, including Palawan, and 14 cities will be asked if they favor the inclusion of their area in the ARMM.

According to officials and analysts, an enlargement of the ARMM territory would give Manila a carrot to convince Moro separatist rebels to sign a peace deal and end 30 years of civil war.

The initiative, however, faces formidable odds. Local officials in predominantly Christian provinces are campaigning for a massive "no" vote.

Ms Macapagal herself conceded

GMA/A14

'One-way bet' off as peso rallies to ₱51 to $

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PESO strengthened sharply yesterday, reaching P51.0 to the US dollar in mid-day trade before closing at P51.21—or 64 centavos off last week's close.

The peso's rally, which began Friday, continued as banks sold dollars to meet stricter reserve requirements and exporters and overseas workers' families sold them on expectation of a stronger peso.

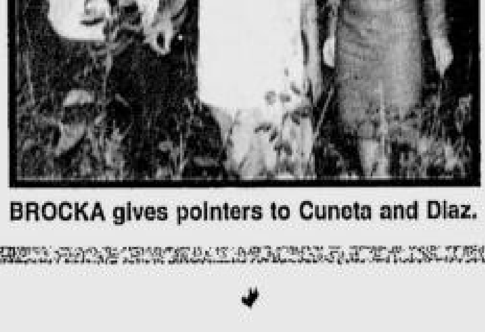
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the "one-way bet against the peso is now off" as the market itself was already shrugging off doomsday projections made earlier by several investment banks that the peso may hit P55 to P60 in the next three to six months.

The P50 target set by President Macapagal-Arroyo was more achievable now that the currency

ONE-WAY/ A15

Why Filipino films are down–but not out

CONDE directs De Villa in 'Bayanihan.'



BROCKA gives pointers to Cuneta and Diaz.

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE FILIPINO film industry is in dire straits these days.

The annual output has plunged from an average of 130 movies three years ago to 89 last year—and some producers fear that we may end up making even fewer films this year.

To add insult to injury, Hollywood productions are doing better than ever, regularly clobbering the local competition at the tills with a series of expensive blockbusters topbilling the US film industry's biggest stars.

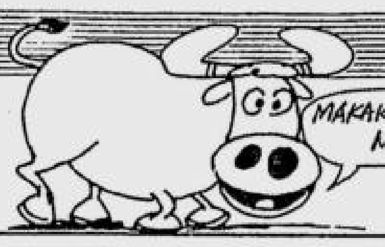
This is a distinct disappointment because Filipino films have had their glory days, the so-called cinematic "golden ages" in the 1950s and 1970s, when outstanding movies were produced.

Those periods were deemed "golden" because the best Filipino filmmakers did their finest works during those years—in the '50s, Gerry de Leon, Lamberto Avellana, Manuel Silos and Manuel Conde; and in the '70s, Lino Brocka, Eddie Romero, Ishmael Bernal and Celso Ad. Castillo.

Alas, those golden days are no longer with us, as Filipino movies now have to

WHY/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE


MAKAKA TRABAHO NA!

NO WINNERS, NO LOSERS

Villar, Legarda break impasse

By Christine Avendaño

THE SENATE finally managed to reorganize 32 of 37 committees without any hitches yesterday, clearing the way for the chamber to start conducting its business, including investigating Sen. Panfilo Lacson and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo for alleged corruption.

The Senate reorganization became possible only after Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda completely gave up accepting a second committee chairmanship each, which the minority has been opposing and blocking since last week.

Villar and Legarda, who earlier stated they were deferring acceptance of the chairmanship of the banks and accounts committees, respectively, said they would not be taking chairmanship of the committees at all.

Higher interest

They were doing so for the sake of the "higher national interest" and to avert what could have been a "legislative crisis" in the Senate, they said.

Both senators remained firm in their stand that taking a second committee chairmanship does not violate Senate rules and tradition as claimed by the opposition.

Villar will now be chairing only the agriculture committee and Legarda, the rules committee.

When the Senate session resumed yesterday, the majority coalition nominated and placed its members, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Sen. John Osmeña, as chair of the banks and accounts committees, respectively.

Magsaysay also chairs the committees on science and technology and national defense and security while Osmeña, finance and local government.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara claimed that what transpired was a "compromise."

Public backlash

"I don't want anyone on either side to feel that they won or lost because it's not the case," Angara told reporters.

"As far as we're (the minority) concerned, we won because we upheld the principle we are fighting for. As far as they're (the majority) concerned, they preserved their position. That is the best compromise of all when both sides feel that they won their point," Angara said.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said that with the "arrangement" that the two sides agreed on, "there were no winners or losers" in the stand-off on the reorganization of the committees.

Arroyo said that both sides realized the public backlash against the Senate and the need for legislative work to begin.

The Senate was able to organize 32 committees yesterday, with the majority bloc organizing 32, and the minority, seven.

Angara said the minority has yet to fill up the committee chairmanship for public information, economic affairs and agrarian reform.

The minority was able to name its members to seven committees, as follows: Angara (for constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, which was merged with the committee on electoral reforms, suffrage and participation); Rodolfo Biazon (cooperatives); Robert Jaworski (environment and natural resources); Blas Ople (foreign relations); Gregorio Honasan (peace, unification and reconciliation); Tessie Aquino-Oreta (civil service and reorganization); and Luisa Ejercito Estrada (youth, women and family relations).

'Overall fiscalizer'

At a minority meeting before the start of yesterday's session, most of the members agreed to accept the committee chairmanships offered to them, Angara said.

Three minority senators—Sergio Osmeña III, Vicente Sotto III and Lacson—declined to take any committee chairmanship, however.

During the session, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. nominated the three as his "assistant minority" leaders.

"They will be our overall fiscalizer, they will attend all committee meetings and study the legislative proposals for us," Angara said.

Asked why the three did not take any committee membership, Pimentel said: "They refused, let it rest at that. They want to have a wider participation because if you have a committee to chair, you'll be tied down with committee work."

Sotto said he believes he can work better as a committee member.

Justice in Erap case asked anew to inhibit self

By Donna S. Cueto

SANDIGANBAYAN Third Division chair Anacleto Badoy Jr. has been asked once more to inhibit himself from hearing the cases against deposed President Joseph Estrada, because his own brother is facing a graft case before the same court.

In a motion to resolve the issue of recusation, Estrada's lawyers again demanded that Badoy remove himself, finding new ground in the pending graft case against his brother, Solomon Badoy, a trustee of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

Solomon was recently re-appointed to the post by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Led by former senator Rene Saguisag, Estrada's lawyers charged that the graft case against Solomon Badoy was not being pursued "with vigor" by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and his team of prosecutors.

"We have pointed out how awkward it (would be) for the honorable chairman not to inhibit himself because his brother was re-appointed by the new administration to which the Badoy family will understandably be grateful," Estrada's motion, dated Aug. 10, stated.

"More so since we have come to know that Mr. Solomon D. Badoy is facing graft charges in this honorable court," the motion said.

The justice's brother was charged with graft before the Sandiganbayan on Dec. 3, 1997 and was conditionally arraigned on July 21, 1999 because of his request to travel to the US to attend a religious meeting of the Elim community.

In some courts, a conditional arraignment is not considered a proper arraignment.

Solomon has been charged with misusing P2.4 million in government funds intended for the construction of 150 homes for rebel returnees.

Badoy and two co-accused from the Southern Philippines Development Authority, Alfredo Lingat and Musa KS Diamla, allegedly failed to properly account for the money.

They also reportedly failed to complete construction of the housing units, to the "damage and embarrassment of the government as well as the rebel returnees."

Badoy is out on P12,000 bail. There has been no pre-trial in the case.

The case was pending in Justice Badoy's division, but the latter only inhibited himself from hearing it on April 23. The case was re-raffled off to the First Division under Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

"The honorable chairman (Badoy) will have the continuing perceptual problem of being seen as unduly favoring the Ombudsman who will prosecute his brother," Estrada's motion said.

Saguisag pointed out the Ombudsman has "not been pressing" Badoy's graft case "perhaps (because he is) unwilling to displease, or wants to curry favor with, the honorable chairman here."

Erap's libel case vs Inquirer stalled

By Donna S. Cueto

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada may not be able to immediately file his threatened P100 million libel suit against military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and the INQUIRER as the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division failed to resolve the motion yesterday to allow him to leave his hospital detention suite, his lawyers said.

The lawyers had filed an urgent ex-parte motion for Estrada to be allowed to leave the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center to go to the Pasig prosecutor's office yesterday, his target date for the filing of the libel suit.

Lawyer Cleofe Verzola said the court should grant the motion because the filing of a libel suit was a matter of right.

She suggested that should the court not grant Estrada permission to travel to Pasig to file his complaint-affidavit, a Pasig City fiscal should be allowed to see Estrada at the VMMC.

"Since he cannot leave, he cannot file a case because when you file a case you have to appear before a fiscal or prosecutor or assistant prosecutor who will subscribe the oath," Verzola said.

The lawyer said there might be a technical problem of jurisdiction with a Pasig fiscal "subscribing" the oath to Estrada at the VMMC as the hospital is in Quezon City.

Estrada has vowed to file the libel suit to prove that he is innocent of the charges he had laundered millions of ill-gotten dollars abroad as Corpus alleged and as reported in the INQUIRER.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to resolve the motion within the week.

Shell cuts oil prices

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. cut the price of gasoline by 15 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 10 centavos per liter, effective midnight last night.

The price rollbacks reflected the notable decrease in world prices of crude, company vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said in a statement.

But this was slightly dampened by the continued drop of the peso against the dollar, he said.

Gamboa said average crude prices went down by $2.26 per barrel, from $25.70 in June to $23.44 in July.

He noted that in the same period, the peso weakened by an average of P1.75, from P51.52 to the dollar in June compared to P53.27 in July.

Gamboa said Shell welcomed recent trends in the world petroleum market pointing to the price rollback, but expressed concern over two factors:

- The decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut average daily production by 1 million barrels starting Sept. 1.
- The expected stockpiling of heating oil by countries in the northern hemisphere in preparation for the coming winter months.

"Future pump prices hinge on these critical indicators," Gamboa said.

A Petron Corp. official, meanwhile, said the firm would "competitively match" Shell's new reduced prices.

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4 Chinese kidnapped while paying ransom

COTABATO—A Chinese-Filipino businessman and three Chinese men were kidnapped by unidentified men while trying to pay ransom for a previously abducted companion, an official said yesterday.

The four were abducted Sunday in the remote village of Datu Paglas in southern Maguindanao by kidnappers whom they secretly met to hand over ransom for their companion, who was abducted in June, the official said.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol said those kidnapped were Chinese-Filipino businessman Edward Lim and Chinese So Siang, Wang Sho-li and Song Zhang-yee.

The three Chinese men were officers of a private company, Chinese Import-Export Technologies, which has been helping build a major irrigation project in North Cotabato.

Piñol said the four traveled to Datu Paglas to pay a P5-million ransom to the kidnappers for Zhang Zong-Quiang, a Chinese engineer involved in an irrigation project who was abducted on June 20 in Matalam town in North Cotabato.

After receiving the money, the kidnappers took the four men captive, Piñol said. Zhang was not with the kidnappers during the pay-off and is still being held by them, along with the new kidnap victims.

Piñol said he has opposed paying ransom to the kidnappers and blamed the Chinese men's company for secretly undertaking negotiations with the kidnappers.

The P2.7-billion foreign-funded irrigation project the Chinese were helping build is expected to irrigate about 12,000 hectares of ricefields in North Cotabato province and nearby Maguin-danao province.

Construction of the irrigation canal, along with a dam, has gone on and off in the last 12 years and has suffered many delays because of security problems, including past kidnapping of foreign engineers involved in the project, officials said. *AP*

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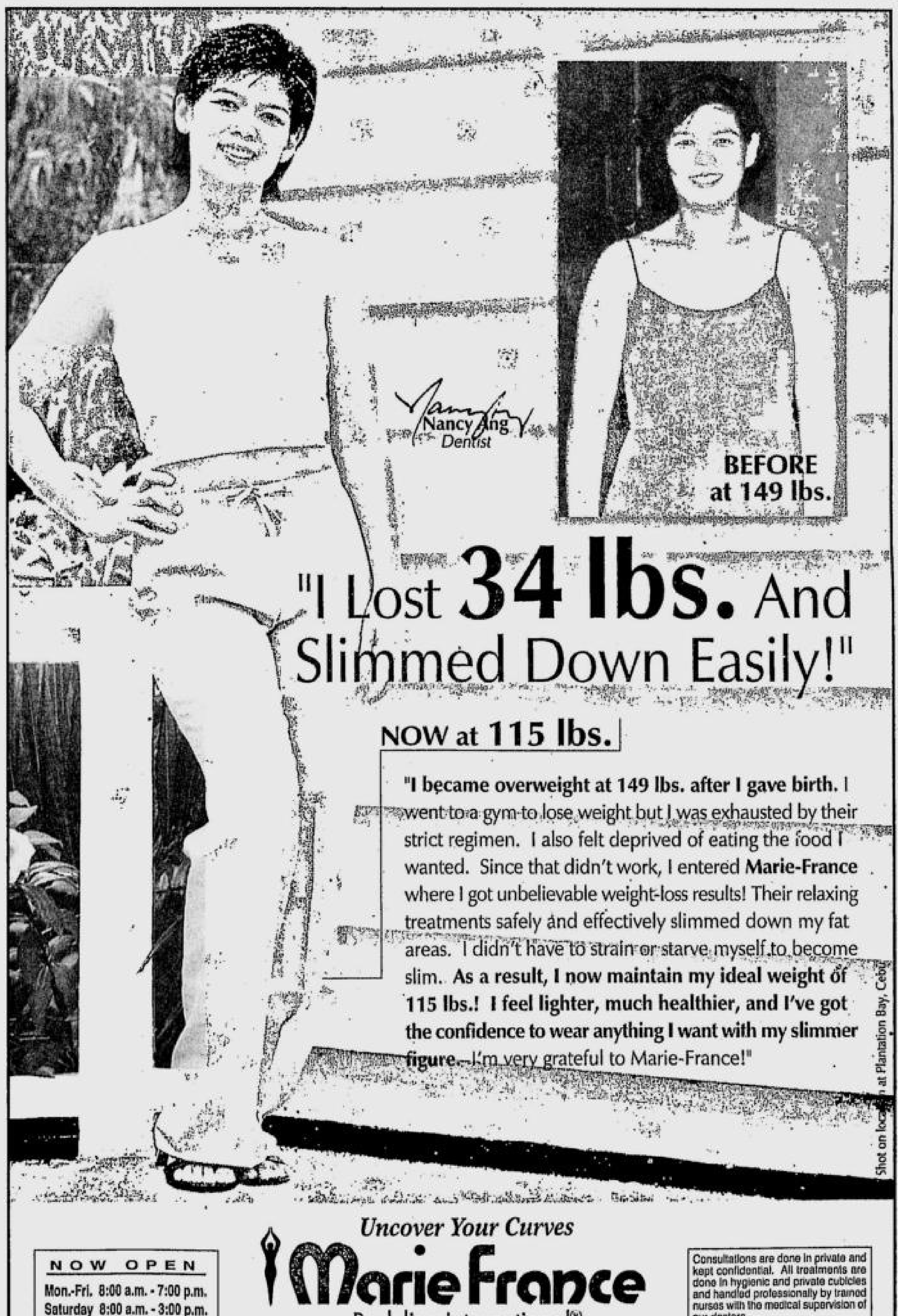

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Roco probes new textbook scam

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco said yesterday he will look into the possible involvement of department personnel in the sale of textbooks on Manila's streets.

Roco, who has vowed to rid the Department of Education, Culture and Sports of graft and corruption, said the instructional materials being peddled in the streets could have been stolen from the public schools.

"That's possible," Roco said, when asked if DECS personnel were involved in the sale of the books. "We will investigate that. We will find out if there is pilferage in the public schools."

The DECS chief said he will work with Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, chair of the Senate committee on education, who has made studies on problems plaguing education in the country.

One of Oreta's studies revealed that textbooks that had been distributed to public elementary and high schools were being openly sold in Manila, particularly on Recto Avenue.

The area near the university belt is notorious as the place to buy used or photocopied reading materials and reference books, theses and term papers, as well as fake diplomas and other certificates.

Roco said he will review Oreta's study to see what the DECS could do to curb the practice, which, if true, is depriving public schoolchildren of already scarce textbooks.

The DECS chief has also sought police help in looking out for public school textbooks being peddled on the sidewalks.

"It is an old practice. It has been like that for years," Roco said.

The DECS has registered a student-to-book ratio of 2:1 at best, and is working to achieve a 1:1.1 ratio to address the textbook shortage.

"We will seek (Oreta's) help because she is the one who did a study, so she would be more knowledgeable about the illegal practice," Roco said.

Oreta has chaired the Senate committee on education for three years and has conducted several studies on the welfare of teachers and other issues concerning education.

Senators to probe AFP-Abu collusion

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND NORMAN BORDADORA

TWO senators filed yesterday a resolution seeking a Senate inquiry into the alleged collusion between certain military officials and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

At the same time, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines asked the government to speed up its investigation into the alleged connivance, as ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo the other day.

Saying colluding with the Abu Sayyaf posed a "grave threat to national security," Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, both former military men, filed Senate Resolution No. 104.

The resolution seeks to probe allegations made by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that certain officers took money to allow the Abu Sayyaf to escape a military cordon around the Lamitan hospital compound in Basilan on June 2.

The two said the inquiry would also aim to "re-examine" the government's strategy in fighting the bandit group.

Honasan and Lacson said there was also a need for the Senate to look into the "seeming failure" of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to conduct accurate information and intelligence (gathering operations), resulting in its failure to come up with an effective national security plan."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he supports an inquiry into Nacorda's allegations, which have "eroded the public's trust in the military."

"We need to bring the truth to light to repair the confidence of the public in the military," Biazon said.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said letting the truth out about Nacorda's allegations is crucial to restoring the confidence of the people of Basilan in the military.

DECS hires 2 new usecs

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

TWO familiar faces will be gracing the offices of the education department starting this month as Malacañang appoints a former congressman and a retired education official into the country's largest bureaucracy.

Education Secretary Raul Roco announced yesterday the appointment of Fe Hidalgo, a former assistant secretary at the department, as the new undersecretary for programs and standards.

Roco said Hidalgo, who retired from government service this year, has already accepted the post vacated by his good friend, Isagani Cruz, who resigned last week to return to teaching.

Jaime Jacob, a prominent lawyer from the Bicol region, has been appointed undersecretary for legal affairs, a post that has been vacant since Roco took over in February.

Roco earlier said he would not need anyone to take charge of legal matters because he was a lawyer and so were some of his staff, but he apparently has changed his mind.

Jacob was a representative of the second district of Camarines Sur in the 11th Congress and was a member of the House committee on higher and technical education.

He placed third in the 1980 bar after graduating with honors from the San Beda Law School. He was also a two-term councilor of Naga City.

Jacob also served as special consultant of the agrarian reform department from 1988 to 1990 and the Philippine National Railways from 1990 to 1991.

PCGG was 'led by the nose' by Marcos cronies–Haydee

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government had been "led by the nose" by the Marcos cronies, costing the government millions of dollars in alleged ill-gotten wealth and seemingly endless years of litigation.

Newly installed PCGG chair Haydee Yorac made the remark amid the government's recovery effort of at least $16 million from the Security Bank and Trust Co. (SBTC), which used to be a prime depository of the Marcos family's wealth.

Yorac lamented how the past PCGG administrations, particularly under David Castro, had failed to contest the SBTC's effort to recover the assets, which were among those covered by the freeze order in Switzerland.

The PCGG is now running after the SBTC at the Sandiganbayan in an attempt to recover the sequestered loot, which had been turned over by the Swiss authorities, with conformity of the PCGG, to the SBTC.

SBTC request

"When I was reviewing (the case), my impression was that they (PCGG officials) were led by the nose if they were not sure that it was government property," Yorac told the INQUIRER.

"Definitely, there was this thing on the part of PCGG. They could have held it up there by not acceding to the request of the SBTC," she added.

Yorac noted that the former PCGG officials had easily given in to the "request" by the SBTC to "assist" the bank in recovering the $16 million deposited at the Union Bank of Switzerland, formerly the Bankers Trust AG (BTAG).

The money represented the two loans extended by the SBTC to Bunratty Enterprises Ltd. Hong Kong (Bunratty), which was never paid by the mysterious firm.

The SBTC, which was then chaired by Marcos crony Rolando Gapud, had arranged fiduciary loans to Bunratty amounting to $1.3 million and $8 million in 1984.

The loans, which were made through the SBTC's account in the BTAG, were secured with the collateral of Standard Investment Co. Ltd. Hong Kong (Standard), a known Marcos dummy firm.

Freeze order

The properties of Standard, including stocks and other commercial certificates, had been held by the BTAG for the SBTC after Bunratty failed to pay the loans.

They were returned to the SBTC in 1993 following the conformity of PCGG officials and the Office of the Solicitor General to partially lift the freeze order on the said account.

Yorac said the PCGG under Castro had passed a resolution allowing the partial lifting of the freeze order on the condition that the remittances would be placed in an escrow account at the Central Bank pending the determination of ownership of the money.

"The letter of (then Solicitor General) Frank (Chavez) spoke about escrow in the Central Bank, but text, or at least the tone of the letter, was conceding interest to the SBTC," Yorac said.

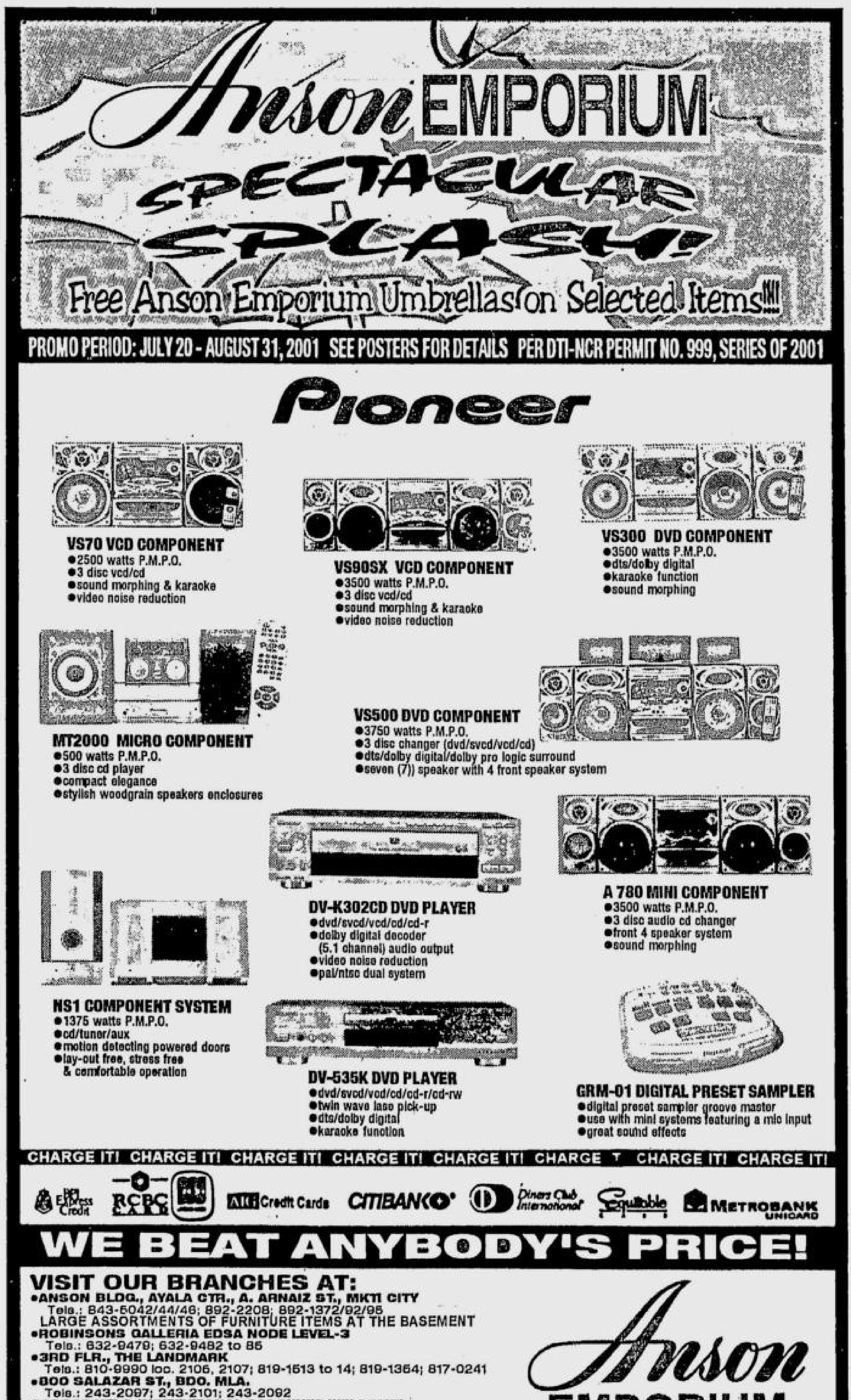
"And that was principally what was used by (Swiss District Attorney in Charge) Peter Cosandey (to give the money to SBTC)," she added.

The PCGG's case against SBTC, Civil Case No. 0174, is "most likely" not even the pretrial stage yet, said Yorac, and would take the government years to recover what had been turned over the SBTC.

She said, however, the PCGG could not run after the former PCGG officials because there was no ground for any criminal liability for the SBTC goof-up.

"I think if there is anything we can fault them with, it's naiveté," Yorac said. "Because it was very clear from the discussion in the hearings that the SBTC was saying 'this is our property' and no one countered that."

She said it was only "toward the end" that the PCGG officials asked if the SBTC had no objection if the government required that the funds be put in escrow.



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Why Filipino films are down–but not out

(From page 1)

cope with the worst possible combination of woes: rising costs and declining grosses.

To illustrate: Producers inform us that the average Filipino movie used to gross P12-20 million in two weeks of showing. Today, that figure has dropped to P5-10 million for the same number of days of release.

Where has the difference gone? To American movies, which have correspondingly upped their income as local movies reduced theirs.

The same disparity is evident when we compare hits. To be acknowledged as a hit, a Filipino movie needs to make P25-40 million in two weeks. On the other hand, Hollywood blockbusters like "Pearl Harbor" and "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" earned more than P100 million during their extended local release.

From time to time, an exceptionally strong local movie also earns P100 million and more. But they are so few that they are deemed the exceptions that prove the rule that, in the Philippines today, Hollywood blockbusters are regularly beating Filipino movies at the box office on their own turf.

Still, we hail these few exceptions—"Anak," "Tanging Yaman," "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Ang Dalubhasa" and "Balahibong Pusa"—because they offer valuable lessons that will allow other producers and filmmakers to similarly buck the tide that has swamped local movies for the past few years.

Between local and imported movies stand the Filipino moviegoers. What has happened to them that made them prefer foreign films to local productions? Is there any way that Filipino movies can win back their allegiance?

Finally, there is the government and its attitude toward film. Is it part of the problem, of the solution—or both? How can it help turn the tide in favor of Filipino films?

Colonial history

Let's go beyond the current depression and hysteria. Let's try to understand why the local film industry appears to have painted itself into a tight corner, and figure out how it can get itself out of the rut.

First, some historical context: The competition between local films and Hollywood imports has always been with us, with the odds generally stacked in favor of the foreign products, no thanks to our long colonial history.

At the turn of the century, US movies hit our screens before local movies started to be made. That set the conditions for their unwieldy cohabitation of our movie houses: Local stars had to have Caucasian features, plots and film types should be "inspired" by foreign "models," etc.

Because of these limiting factors, Filipino films often played second fiddle to the imports, which ended up hogging most of the "first class" theaters in town.

But despite these limitations, Filipino films flourished in the '50s, thanks to the top four production companies of that progressive period—LVN, Sampaguita, Lebran and Premiere.

Still, the imports continued to be given preferential treatment in terms of theater circuits and audience support. The more influential A-B sectors preferred American movies, while the C-D or "bakya" crowd doted on the local films.

That's why, as early as the '50s, a famous movie director announced in anguish, "The Filipino movie industry is dying!"—only to be out-anguished by even more desperate souls who wailed, "No, the industry is dead!"

We cite those grim pronouncements from the '50s for a reason. These days, 50 years after those words were uttered, people are again bewailing the "death" of local movies, due to an even more complex skein of negative factors that have sapped their life blood.

Our point: Local films survived those verbal obituaries in the '50s, and, if everyone pulls together this time around, they will also survive the tough times.

The thing is to find a creative solution to the industry's present woes. That may seem impossible now, but decades ago the problems appeared unsolvable—yet a solution was found.

Brilliant gambit

In the '60s, leaders of the Filipino film industry convinced Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas to use his influence to help them prove an important point—that they were capable of producing films good enough to match, if not top, the appeal of US movies.

In the past, they could not do this because US films virtually monopolized the best movie houses. So, Villegas held the first Manila Film Festival, stipulating that, within its 10-day run, only Filipino movies could be shown in all the movie houses in the city.

The gambit was brilliant, audacious and risky. What if local producers failed to meet the challenge and came up with inferior movies? To their credit, however, they fielded some outstanding films, and the eye-opening festival was hailed as a success.

It proved that local movies could aspire toward excellence and deserved to be screened in the best venues. More importantly, the festival's exclusive "menu" forced some viewers who preferred Hollywood films to finally sample the local products—and some of them were impressed.

Indeed, the 1966 festival fielded such impressive entries as De Leon's "Daigdig ng mga Api," Romero's "Passionate Strangers," "Sabotage," "Flight of the Sparrow" and Avellana's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

This was followed up in 1967 with Luis Nepomuceno's "Dahil Sa Isang Bulaklak," which impressed viewers with its color cinematography, and "Ito ang Pilipino."

The 1968 crop was even stronger: Romero's "Manila: Open City," "Mindanao," "Salamisim" and "Kasalanan Kaya." These and other well-made films made A-B moviegoers realize that local movies had caught up with the rest of the filmmaking world, and fully deserved their patronage.

For their part, producers and theater owners were impressed by the festival films' showing at the tills. In 1966, they played in 16 theaters for 12 days and made P663,280. In 1967, the figure rose to P880,320, and in 1960, it reached P1,158,000.

This showed that the viewing public was becoming more and more convinced that Filipino movies were worth supporting. In time, local films became so popular that some of them were able to equal and even top the grosses of the biggest US imports.

Even after the festivals had closed, some A-B viewers continued to patronize local movies, which began to play with increasing frequency in the better movie houses.

Alive and kicking

Thus did the Manila Film Festival help turn the local industry's flagging fortunes around in the '60s and '70s. So much for the dire prognostications of the industry's "death." The "corpse" was alive and kicking!

Things proceeded prosperously apace after that. For the first time, some local movies started beating US films at the box office. Local production figures shot up, the audience for Filipino films expanded, and advances were made in terms of moviemaking technology and cinematic storytelling styles.

In addition, local producers became more open to younger and more audacious filmmaking talents—Brocka, Bernal, Ad. Castillo in the '70s, Peque Gallaga, Laurice Guillen, Chito Roño and Marilou Diaz-Abaya in the '80s; etc.

In the '60s, '70s and '80s, the Filipino movie industry was able to snatch victory from "certain" defeat. It can do so again.

To be continued

Bankers urge Congress to pass anti-laundering act

By Rocky Nazareno

BANKERS yesterday urged Congress to pass the Anti-Money Laundering Act to meet the Sept. 30 deadline set by an international financial task force for the Philippines to adopt the internationally accepted legislation.

In a briefing at the House of Representatives, officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Bankers Association of the Philippines called on both chambers to immediately tackle the measure that would remove the Philippines from the list of non-cooperative countries and territories (NCCT).

The absence of anti-money laundering legislation has affected the Philippines' reputation in the international community and has prompted a tighter scrutiny of the country's financial transactions made with other countries.

"If we do not meet the Sept. 30 deadline we will be blacklisted (in the international financial community)," said BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel.

The Philippines was named by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as among the 15 NCCTs which had "made inadequate progress to fight money laundering."

The Paris-based anti-money laundering watchdog representing 29 industrialized countries is the international body assigned to crack down on the practice of cleansing money sourced from illegal activities.

The NCCTs have been given up to Sept. 30 to pass the necessary legislation on anti-money laundering.

Should the Philippines fail to pass any legislation, it would face FATF countermeasures, among them, subjecting financial transactions to verification and scrutiny and discouraging foreigners from investing in the country.

There will also be "inconvenience and opportunity losses" as well as a requirement for a "waiver of confidentiality of deposits."

An inter-agency group from the justice, finance and foreign affairs departments and the BSP drafted the anti-money laundering bill, which was endorsed by Malacañang.

The bill would make money laundering a crime and would implement a reporting program on "suspicious transactions."

The bill will provide an exception to the operation of the country's bank secrecy laws, said Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, a member of the technical working group, in a press statement.

The Philippines has a strict bank secrecy laws that prevents the effective monitoring of suspicious bank accounts.

It also proposes the creation of a National Anti-money Laundering Board to oversee the implementation of the law. The board will have an initial funding of P50 million, and will be composed of four permanent members to be appointed by the President and five ex-officio members—the heads of the finance, justice, local governments and foreign affairs departments and the BSP.

Calida said the proposed measure is even more stringent than the previously proposed Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) bill because it authorizes the board to "stop, freeze, block, suspend or temporarily place under its absolute control" funds from a suspicious account for a maximum of 10 days.

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OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 247
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-46, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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EDITORIALS

Untimely filibuster

LAST week's filibuster by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III was not only a milestone in the political education of neophyte Sen. Noli de Castro, who admitted, in that self-deprecatory way of his that translates very well on broadcast media, to reaching for the dictionary. It was also a stumbling block on the Senate's road to political redemption.

We do not quarrel with the method itself, although we must note that, if abused, the filibuster, which is essentially a privilege that works only in a closed, in-bred club consisting of equals, can lead to the tyranny of a very vocal and articulate minority.

At any rate, the bizarre episode seems to have come to an end. In a delicate exchange of politically choreographed moves, Osmeña has stopped his filibuster and the objects of his ire—Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda—have dropped their plans to assume committee chairmanships.

All's well that ends well? We think not.

The filibuster is an option of last resort, when all other means of negotiation and all other forms of argument have been exhausted. It is troubling to see the new opposition deploy this legislative weapon so early in the term of the 12th Congress. If this is the way the opposition in the Senate begins its term, we dread the inevitable: legislative deadlock.

This sense of foreboding is reinforced by the way that some opposition senators have unthinkingly closed ranks behind Sen. Panfilo Lacson, even airing the suggestion yesterday that the upper chamber withhold any investigation of the former police general's alleged bank accounts because the inquiry might just lead to political grandstanding. If that were the case, then maybe the Senate ought to reconsider its power to launch investigations in aid of legislation altogether. Grandstanding is an occupational hazard for all politicians, a temptation to which even Osmeña is not immune. At one point last week, he even boasted that he would have "sex on the floor" of the Senate, if necessary, in order to continue his filibuster. His Olympian attitude improves the old saying, thus: where one sits determines where one grandstands.

What makes Osmeña's action truly unfortunate, however, is that it comes at a time when the Senate is still in the process of recovering from the public's loss of confidence in it, because of the ignominious 11-10 vote on the second Jose Velarde envelope last Jan. 16. Osmeña should know, because he was one of the 10 who voted to open the envelope, and was witness at Edsa and in other places to the moral outrage that spilled into the streets and ultimately deposed a president.

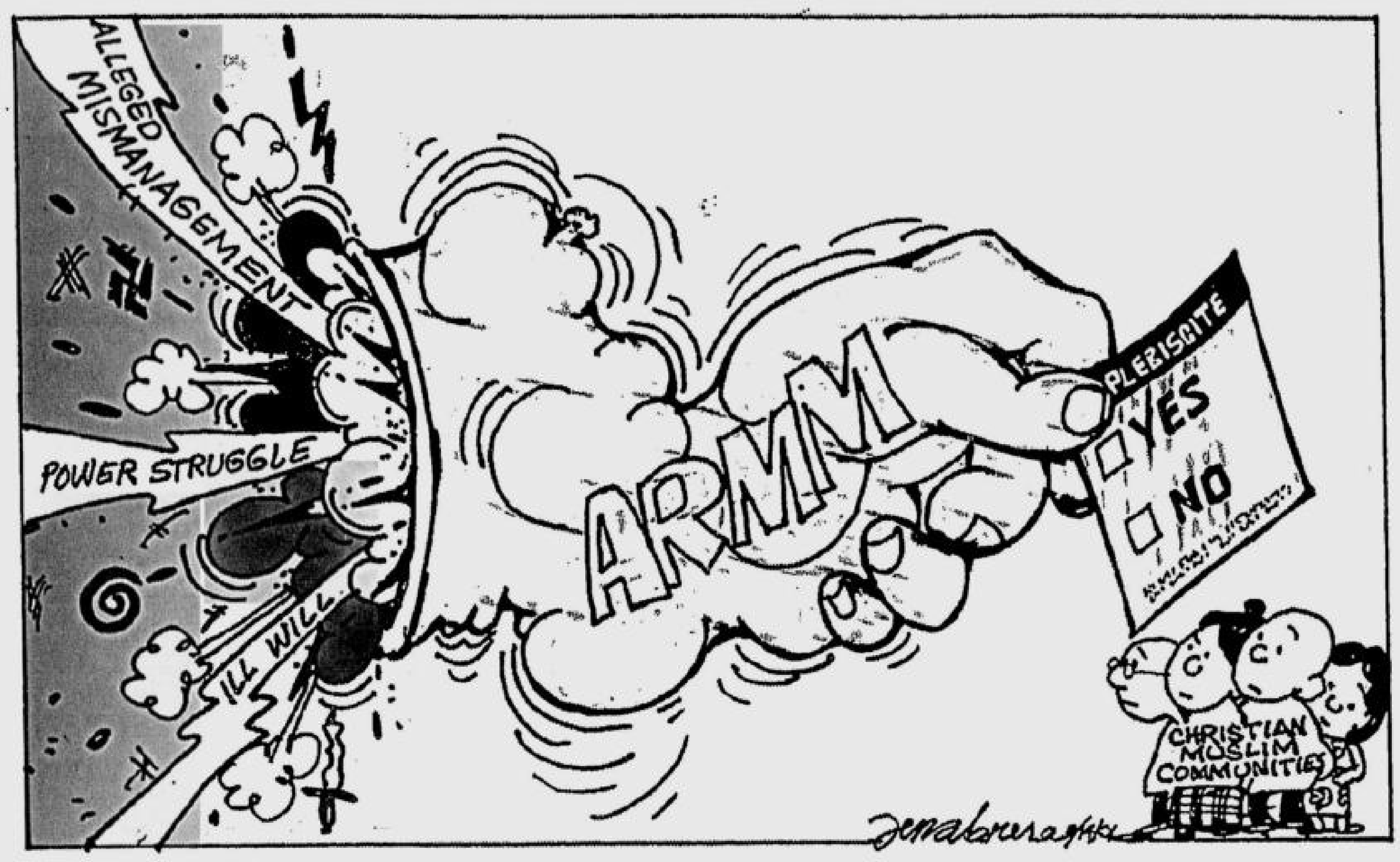
But perhaps he doesn't remember. "The greatest danger to democracy," the great dissenter and former Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee once said, "lies in the shortness of human memory."

Moral mandate

Could it be that, a mere seven months after that second moral uprising at Edsa, Osmeña III has already forgotten that the nation expects the Senate to act not only within the parameters of law but within the boundaries of morality?

We do not mean to say that the filibuster, in itself, is an immoral act. We only wish to emphasize that at this time the unwritten objective for the members of the Senate must be to redeem the institution in the eyes of the people. Perhaps Sen. Blas Ople or Sen. Vicente Sotto will not understand all this talk about a moral mandate. In a letter to the INQUIRER some time ago, even educational reform advocate Sen. Edgardo Angara disputed the existence of just such "an imagined moral mandate" in the election of a Senate president.

But if Osmeña will remember his courageous stand last January, the whole notion of a moral mandate should make sense. Then, in that mandate's clear light, the filibuster can be seen for what it really is: a political game, an opposition gambit, that an increasingly frustrated people have no patience for.



Should police forces be returned to mayors?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SHOULD control and supervision of the police forces be returned to the mayors?

This was the subject of the Kapihan sa Manila breakfast forum yesterday in which Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police and Tagaytay Mayor Francis Tolentino, president of the League of City Mayors, were the panelists.

There are valid pros and cons on the issue. The mayors claim that because it is they who are blamed by their constituents for any breakdown in law and order, they should be given control of the police forces in their localities. But wasn't that the system before and it proved so bad that it was changed into the present system making the PNP national in scope? The old system bred private armies, favoritism and a breakdown in discipline. But it cannot be denied that under the present set-up, there also is a breakdown in discipline (although whatever you say now of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, he was able to instill discipline in the police force during his stint as PNP chief) and an increase in the crime rate.

Still, going back to the old system won't be simple. In the first place, we would have to amend the Constitution and the Local Government Code. Then, will the local government units absorb the pay of the policemen? Will there be different salary scales for them depending on the ability of the LGUs to pay? And who will train the police recruits? Can the LGUs afford to set up training schools like the Philippine Police Academy?

Tolentino's proposal is not as drastic. There will be no change in the Constitution and the Local Government Code. The national government will continue to pay the policemen's salaries and train the recruits. But the mayors will appoint the chief of police and discipline and supervise the operations of their respective police forces.

Isn't the present set-up almost like that? The mayor chooses the police chief from a list of five nominees submitted to him by the PNP. If he doesn't like any of them, he can ask for another list. The police chief consults him on the operations of the police force. He can ask the police chief, the PNP or the Napolcom to discipline any policemen in his city or municipality.

But this is not enough for the mayors. They want full control over the police forces but not, mind you, full responsibility for paying and training them.

* * *

Another idea of Mayor Tolentino is to have two sets of police forces in every city and municipality. One would be the national police controlled by the PNP chief, with jurisdiction over violations of national laws. The other would be the local police under the control of the mayor which would enforce ordinances and laws on traffic and against petty crimes.

But wouldn't this sow confusion and foment rivalry among the separate sets of policemen? We are already experiencing that under the present arrangement on traffic management. There is the traffic bureau of the PNP; the Metro Manila Development Authority has its own traffic aides in the persons of former Metro aides; and each city has its own sets of traffic enforcers. These are the enforcers sporting uniforms of different colors (blue, red, brown, etc.). Then there are the flying squads of the LTO. In spite of that many sets of traffic enforcers, however, the traffic has become messier every day. Proof that too many cooks spoil law enforcement.

Fortunately, there are many police systems in the world we can learn from. Mendoza said the best model is that of Thailand where all law enforcement, including customs law enforcers, are united under one police agency. The world trend, he said, is not to divide and compartmentalize law enforcement but to unite it to avoid confusion, make it stronger and more effective.

* * *

By the way, Mendoza revealed that the days of cell-phone snatchers are numbered. Reacting to this column last Aug. 6 asking him to please stop cell-phone snatching, which has led to the death of at least two teenagers recently, the PNP chief said that they are raiding stores that sell stolen cell phones. That is not so simple, however, he said. The stores don't display stolen units. Instead, snatchers call up when they have available units and the deal with a buyer is consummated in a private house. Nevertheless, in the few days since the PNP has started the drive, many stolen cell phones have been seized and suspected snatchers and fences charged.

The PNP also appealed to the public not to buy stolen cell phones even though they are very cheap. With the sale of each stolen unit, you encourage more thefts and snatching. If nobody buys stolen phones, nobody would bother to steal them.

Mendoza also revealed that the PNP will take over traffic enforcement in all of Metro Manila. He said traffic flow at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City will be finally rationalized. Although the purpose of a rotonda is to insure continuous traffic flow, the wise guy in charge of the Quezon Memorial Circle had traffic signals installed in all six intersections. These are not necessary since all that vehicles have to do is turn right to enter the rotonda. Worse, the breaks in the center islands that allowed vehicles to enter and exit the inner lane were closed. As a result, vehicles have to stop at all six intersections—even those in the inner lane—and traffic piles up.

Happily, all of these will be stopped soon—if General Mendoza is to be believed.

Cartoon stuff

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BOYING Pimentel, who writes for the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote about it some weeks ago. That was the photo exhibit at Pusod (an organization of Filipinos in the United States that's into environmental and social issues), showing the way the Philippines was depicted by three American magazines at the turn of the century. That was of course when America embarked on her imperial venture, under the banner "manifest destiny" or "white man's burden."

I saw the exhibit cursorily when I spoke there last month. I took more time looking at it this time, and was bowled over. The exhibit consists largely of cartoons that came out in three American magazines in 1898, when America went to war with Spain in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, from pressure from its businessmen, who resented the enviable position of the colonial powers and quite literally wanted new worlds to conquer.

The cartoons come mainly from Judge, Puck and Life. Judge was the most rabid supporter of the imperialist venture, and depicted the Filipinos in the most hostile and contemptuous terms. Puck confined itself to patronizing the Filipinos in the course of upholding the white man's burden. Life was a blast of clean icy air in a stale room, opposing the imperialist venture with biting satire and even taking the side of the Filipinos, who were being depicted as bandits by other American publications.

The Judge and Puck cartoons were big and elaborate illustrations in color, while the Life ones were smaller black-and-white "portraiture"-type ones. I thought it quite serendipitous that I should see that exhibit again on the eve of the Philippine Arts Festival, which opened last weekend, a festival meant to showcase the best that the Filipino is, and was. The exhibit had absolutely nothing to do with the festival (it has been there for a couple of months now). But it was a nice counterpoint to the present. The American attitude toward Filipinos may have improved vastly from openly racist scorn for unwilling subjects, but to what extent only the quite willing Filipino immigrants to the United States know.

First, the cartoons from Judge. The "outing number," as it called its first issue, features a stern-faced President McKinley waist-deep in water carrying on his left hand a Filipino toddler who is struggling to break free. The boy looks like an African native, with grass skirt, beads and hair-like bristles. He has a small spear in hand and is bawling his head off. On his right hand, McKinley has a scrub that goes by the label, "Education." The water itself he has waded into is labeled "Civilization." On the shore, two black persons, labeled Cuba and Puerto Rico, are happily putting on a new set of civilized clothes the color of the stars and stripes. The caption underneath reads, "The Filipino's First Bath."

Yet another cartoon from Judge shows McKinley being attacked by a swarm of mosquitoes. He is calmly slapping them dead in his arm. The mosquitoes are labeled, "Insurgent," and their leader "Aguinaldo." The caption reads: "Hit 'em hard."

The quality of the cartoons in Puck is typified by one that shows Uncle Sam (an Abraham Lincoln look-alike) and McKinley climbing a rocky mountain, bent from the loads on their backs. The loads are "colored" peoples, variously Chinese, Indian, Arabian, Cubans, Puerto Ricans and Filipinos. Boulders labeled "ignorance" are strewn on all sides of the weary travelers, while in the distance a lady named Civilization beckons, holding in her hands the tablets of "Liberty and Education." The caption reads, "The White Man's Burden."

These monuments to imperial conceit and folly are balanced by the cartoons from Life. One cartoon has an American soldier aiming his rifle at an unseen enemy, while a Filipino lies dead at his feet and a hut burns beside him. The cartoon carries not a caption but a brief satirical commentary that reads:

"Lucky Filipinos. It appears that Filipinos have lost confidence in Americans. Do these benighted wretches fail to realize what we have accomplished in their islands? We may have burnt certain villages, destroyed considerable property and incidentally slaughtered a few thousands of their sons and brothers, husbands and fathers, etc. but what did they expect? Were we to transport an army more than halfway around the earth merely to listen to peace propositions?

"And look at Manila. Ten years ago, the main street of Manila did not possess a single saloon. Now there are thirteen on this one street! And they complain that drunken American soldiers insult the native women. What do they expect from a drunken soldier anyway? Progress is now in these islands.

"She may be red-handed and at times drunk, but she is there for business."

Another cartoon shows McKinley explaining the American Constitution to MacArthur and Roosevelt (the latter on a toy horse, laughing stupidly), while the ghost of Washington contemplates them. "The Declaration of Independence. We bought the Filipinos for $20,000,000. Therefore: We hold these lies ("truths" is crossed out) to be self-evident. That all brown ("brown" is inserted) men are created unequal ("un" is inserted), that they are endowed by their Tryers (replacing "Creator") with certain unalienable wrongs (replacing "rights"), that among these are death (replacing "life"), captivity (replacing "liberty") and pursuit ("the" and "of happiness" are crossed out). The caption underneath reads, "Fun for the boys."

But my personal favorite is a cartoon showing Lady Liberty raising a hand at Uncle Sam who has a sword unsheathed and is about to lunge at a Filipino who also has a sword in hand to defend himself. The caption reads: "Liberty: Stop this bloody work, Sam. He (pointing to the Filipino) is the one who is fighting for me."

This is one set of cartoons that should be required viewing for the kids.

Bankers ought to increase discounts on NPAs

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NOW it seems, we know why many of the officials and employees of the Social Security System rebelled against the previous chair of the SSS, Vitaliano Nañagas. He was out to reform the private pension fund agency and streamline its operations and expenses, meaning happy days would be over for them. The Commission on Audit report, disclosed by Surigao Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, showed that a third of a billion pesos was spent for "Christmas expenses" for two of the three Erap years (1999 and 2000). This is shocking. Worse those Christmas spending binges were officially sanctioned by the SSS management despite the reported P5 billion and P7 billion shortfall for premiums and other benefit payments. There was an imbalance between expenses and incomes, and yet, almost P3 billion was spent last year for salaries and perks.

* * *

Recall that soon after the exit of SSS Chair Carlos Arellano, Erap's childhood friend, it was bruited about that the SSS would have to increase the monthly premiums paid by members to meet payment demands, as it did not have sufficient funds. Knowledgeable sources also opined that at the rate the SSS funds were being diverted to other expenditures, they could be good only up to the year 2010. What was to become of the SSS members, who are mostly from the middle class?

Apparently the management pampered the officials and employees of the SSS with fat salary increases, bonuses and other perks, with the officials getting the fatter portion in order to keep them all happy and contented. That was the payoff for playing dumb as the raid of the funds by top officials to benefit Estrada investments in various crony firms went on. Nañagas, however, represented change and reform, and so he had to be hooted out of office.

The plunder at the SSS appears to be reflective of what was going on in other government corporations during the Erap era. If these would be subjected to external audit, many more interesting discoveries would doubtless be unearthed. The full investigation ought to start at the SSS.

* * *

It was Speaker Jose de Venecia who, prior to bagging the House top post, first proposed the idea to the bankers in a meeting he called with Bangko Sentral Gov. Paeng Buenaventura and Bankers Association of the Philippines president Placidito Mapa.

He exhorted the bankers to support President Macapagal's bold housing program by agreeing to get rid of their non-performing real estate assets that have been foreclosed, estimated to be worth about P40 billion out of a total non-performing assets (NPAs) of about P280 billion. Let those real estate assets be used in conjunction with real estate developers such as Creba, or sell them to the government for the construction of low-cost houses. De Venecia coaxed bankers such as Allied Bank president Peter Favila and BAP executive director Topper Coronel. In lieu of payments from the government, De Venecia proposed the issuance of redeemable bonds which the bankers can then sell, the proceeds to be used, among other things, to jumpstart the administration's housing program. That way, he said, their non-performing assets can become liquid again, and *makakatulong pa sila sa gobyerno.*

* * *

The bankers, long aching to get rid of NPAs, were enthusiastic and got to work on the computations. But from what I gathered, the kink is now in the amount of discount that the banks are willing to give. They argue that their present value represents bargain basement prices. But perhaps these assets, which already have been consigned by the banks to the "loan loss provision," can be discounted some more for the government's housing program so that this sector could be jumpstarted. C'mon guys, do it for love of country..

* * *

Maybe the bankers could see the point of view of my good friend Nap Rama, publisher of the Bulletin, about the ripple effect of housing. Yesterday I quoted him as opining that the beauty of jumpstarting the construction of mass housing is that it would also perk up some 60 other industries allied with housing, such as cement, plywood, services, electrical, etc. Right now, Nap said, the most urgent need we have is to provide jobs, jobs and more jobs, since the people have become terribly poor. The fastest way to provide jobs, he opined, is through housing. By giving jobs you provide purchasing power to the people, which, in turn, is what the manufacturers need to increase productivity and perk up industry. When industries perk up, they will run to the banks for loans.

Rama also pointed out that in addition to the real estate held by banks, there are many public lands that can be disposed of, such as those in Welfareville, the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa and some 20,000 hectares in Antipolo.

* * *

Recently, Fr. Pierre Tritz, founder of Erda Foundation, which helps students from the poorest families across the nation to remain in school, invited me to join the Erda Technical Vocational High School board in meeting with some foreigners who are interested in helping. I was glad I came, for I met two graduates of Erda Tech's five-year training program, who, thanks to the vocational training they received, are now gainfully employed and able to help their parents.

Abigail Magnayon, a smart 19-year old who trained in automotive at Erda Tech, is the daughter of a garage mechanic. Her Erda training enabled her to find work right after graduation. She now works as a marketing executive officer at Xyver Training Corp. which deals in car paints. Soon she will undergo further training in Japan.

Jerico Talbo, 19, is the son of a construction laborer and a rag sewer who makes P10 for every 30 pieces she sews. Thanks to his Erda Tech training in electronics, Jerico is doing far better than his brothers who couldn't find stable jobs. He works in MGME Marketing Corp. and is enrolled in evening courses at a computer college.

* * *

Abigail and Jerico are excellent examples of young people who, had they not received good vocational training, would have languished at odd jobs or become street children. They now encourage their friends at Erda to persevere in their training and education, since this is the only way they could break the cycle of poverty. Abigail and Jerico are also the best argument for investing in the future of our youth, the hope of our country. Call Father Tritz at Erda Tech today (Tel. Nos. 521-3547 and 564-2608) to give P15,000 which will sustain a first-year scholar from a poor family for a year or P18,000 for those in higher years.

A demanding boss

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IS it possible that rumors of drug-use among members of the Macapagal Cabinet arose from the extraordinary demands the President puts on her official family?

"Maybe it's because you all get so little sleep," I suggested during an encounter between Secretaries Dinky Juliano Soliman of DSWD and Ging Quintos Deles of the NAPC and some members of media. Red-eyed and bleary, they could very well be mistaken for substance abusers.

Kidding aside, it seems working for a workaholic President like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can place extraordinary demands on her people. "One thing we have all learned when travelling with the President," says Deles, "is that when she does stop to have a meal, you better take the nearest seat available and start eating, because after only a few mouthfuls, she will stand up and be ready to go." Many a Cabinet member who took time to chat and confer with companions has learned to his or her chagrin that there wasn't even enough time for a bite.

"We have also learned that when there is food available, you should take it, because you never know when or where your next meal will be," added Soliman.

Though a Cabinet member once kidded President Macapagal that "*ang linis-linis na namin dahil sa kakasabon ninyo* (we're so clean from your scolding)," the two Cabinet members say meetings are by and large pleasant, collegial affairs. "She does have a sense of humor and can laugh at herself," says Deles of the President.

In fact, after the President mentioned that "(Education) Secretary (Raul) Roco's witticisms" were among the things she looked forward to during Cabinet meetings, Roco has supposedly vowed to crack "at least one joke at every meeting." Let's hope none of those jokes was about a cocaine-sniffing department head.

* * *

THE ARMED Forces spokesperson understandably sounded upset and resentful when questioned on the allegations of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that at least five military officers, one of them a general, had conspired with the Abu Sayyaf in order to split the bandit group's ransom "earnings."

"This is an insult to our men in uniform," the spokesperson said over radio. "They're risking their lives in the battlefield and surviving on just P60 meal allowance a day, and this is what they get in return?"

Well, I agree our soldiers who are putting their lives on the line deserve the support and understanding of the public, but I don't agree that the story of Father Nacorda heaps insult on the ordinary soldier, or that the average grunt would resent the allegations. Indeed, if I were a soldier slugging it out in Basilan or Jolo, I would welcome the probe recently ordered by the President regarding the charges leveled by the Claretian priest.

For if true, the allegations raised against the officers constitute not just incompetence or inept leadership, but outright treason and even murder. For isn't that what leaving soldiers to the mercies of heavily armed bandits constitute? When you command troops to go after a band of kidnappers, then telegraph your movements or deliberately let the enemy slip out of your grasp, are you not endangering the lives of your men and betraying your country?

Instead of feeling insulted, soldiers should indeed be calling for a full, impartial investigation of the charges, especially since other witnesses aside from Father Nacorda have come forward saying much the same thing.

* * *

WHICH is why if I were the President, I would censure Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who was AFP chief of staff and therefore commanding officer of Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who's at the center of the budding scandal. Ordered to start an inquiry "in the interest of transparency," Reyes hastened to "clear" the officers implicated in the charges. Indeed, he sounded like he was more inclined to investigate the accusers, if not throw them behind bars right this minute. For what else did he mean when he said that "when we impugn the integrity of our officers, especially generals, we have crossed the line"? What? Are generals now so sacrosanct they are beyond doubt, suspicion or investigation?

Perhaps Reyes should be reminded that as defense secretary, he represents civilian authority over the military. His being a former military man should inspire him all the more to prove where his primary loyalty lies. And if his duty calls for him to throw the book at former subordinates or comrades, then he should do so. Like a good soldier, as the saying goes.

* * *

NOW that witnesses have spoken up, will Reyes be more willing to take the allegations seriously? A nurse at the nearby provincial hospital says she saw Dominguez alight from a helicopter with a black attaché case containing thousand-peso bills then return shortly after with hostages Reghis Romero and Raul Recio. Even more damning, a member of a volunteer civilian armed group said Scout Rangers assigned to guard the back entrance withdrew from their posts, and some hours later, the Abu Sayyaf with their hostages were seen "strolling" from the hospital were they had been surrounded. So it does little good for Reyes as well as military brass to now start impugning the veracity of Father Nacorda and even the priest's mental stability. By dismissing the story, saying Nacorda is merely "hallucinating," or has an axe to grind against the military because he'd been kidnapped previously, the military is saying it doesn't take the story seriously. Does it take the President's order for an investigation just as seriously then?

The Abu Sayyaf, it must be noted, is responsible not just for the deaths and injuries to hostages as well as to police and troops, but for damage on a wider scale, to the national economy and to the country's reputation. And by their crimes and brutality, they have blackened the name of Islam as well. Their collaborators must be punished to the full extent of the law.

The policy of good roads and shade trees

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WAY back in 1930, the American view was that in order to promote prosperity in the rural areas, good roads were needed. P.J. Wester writing in the American Chamber of Commerce Journal noted that "good roads link formerly isolated municipalities closer together, facilitate and reduce the cost of transportation of country produce to the cities and open up areas of land for cultivation that (previously)...had been inaccessible." (This is a given, and for more years than I care to remember, the mantra has been farm-to-market roads which obviously are not just inadequate in most parts of the country but are actually non-existent, especially in Mindanao.) Wester added needlessly that the prospect was entirely possible "with the advent of...the automobile, bus and the truck" that naturally had to be imported from the United States. (Don't smirk. We've progressed. Now we're importing the components from countries other than the United States and gluing them together rather than just the finished product.) I don't think anybody would argue with Wester's opinion in view of the high cost of products in the market.

Apparently the construction of a network of roads in the country was one of the priorities of the American colonial government. If you're interested in trivia, Pampanga built the first provincial road of cement. Wester wrote: "Concrete roads are the roads of the future, especially in the tropics."

We know Marcos knew this from the durability of the roads built in Region I and the specifications required by the Department of Roads and Highways. They haven't changed but apparently they are seldom implemented for reasons we are all aware of.

What Wester insisted on and actually wrote as his recommendations in a second article was that roads and streets should be lined with shade trees! (Now consider that this suggestion was made 70 years ago and our propensity for chopping them down rather than planting them is something that probably a good psychiatrist could fathom.) He even cited the example of Germany that utilized fruit trees for shade in the countryside and the different communities through which the road passed auctioned off the fruit produced each season to the highest bidder. Germany was doing this as early as 1876 and the principality of Hanover at the time realized the sum of over a million undevalued pesos.

One imagines that such a project would have served a dual purpose for us if had we bothered to copy it. It would have furnished all season shade, but especially in the summer, as well as income for the provincial communities. (Repeat to me that their hearts bleed for the poor. If you do it often enough I might believe you.)

Wester, who must have worked for either roads and highways department or the forestry agency, did not recommend deciduous or fire trees for shade because these shed their leaves during the hot, dry months, although the few that remain on the Ilocos highways are absolutely stunning when in bloom. These were better off in parks and squares, amenities that we've gotten rid of in the city today so it hardly matters. (The Mehan Gardens is an excellent example of the values espoused by elected local as well as national officials in this area. Where one would have expected Malacañang to step in because the issue dealt with the capital of the country, there was nothing but silence. On the other hand there's this underhanded interference in the elections of the NCCA and the CCP that really makes one wonder about certain people's judgment calls. The impression imparted is that no one really cares what the so-called premier city looks like. This is not a question of priorities, this is plain and real indifference.)

In today's landscaping of public areas, there is a decided preference for palm or coconut trees that hardly give any shade at all. One surmises that this must be because these don't shed their leaves and therefore do not require too much maintenance and are quite hardy. Wester didn't bother to recommend them citing that their trunks do not grow straight and they serve better as ornamentals.

The problem with trees providing shade is that they are slow growing but have a finer grain and are more resistant to typhoons, although one has to wait several years before they provide the desired shade. The other problem is the space required once the tree reaches its maximum growth. Several years elapse before the space can be occupied and in the meantime the road looks unfinished and the shade provided is inadequate. The solution is to plant one or two quick-growing trees between them and to remove these once they are no longer needed.

Aside from these considerations, Wester also advised taking into account the width of the street or road once the distance between the trees was decided upon.

From my vantage point, this is a ridiculous subject. I have yet to see a city or a municipality here where any official gives a hoot about shade trees or how the roads and avenues look and whether there's space between trees. (There was even a Baguio mayor who literally had a pine tree built of concrete.) To top it all, with the exception of the narra, the palo maria and the eucalyptus, I personally do not know the other trees recommended by Wester like the marabu, dinglas, guangco, iyavaki, pipal, turpentine, salisi and Sslkoak or whether they aren't extinct by now. What that reflects is indeed sad.

One fine day

Lyra Dumdum

IT was a beautiful summer's day. The humidity was not oppressive and the sun's rays were friendly for noontime. I was going to meet my best friend at a little hidden park near DuPont Circle, an oasis from the downtown jungle, as my officemates would say. Technically, it is a wrong metaphor since an oasis is found in the dessert and a jungle is pretty much an "oasis" albeit a much larger one. But, I wasn't in the mood to debate the point that time, so I let it be. Besides, who cares?

YOUNGBLOOD

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

My friend was in town for yet another appointment with his doctor. He's been going to the doctors more frequently now. Part of me was confident that he'd pull through. He'd been pulling through for six years now, so would this year be different? Then again...no, no, no.

Happy thoughts, happy thoughts! My mind raced for some beautiful, happy thoughts aside from raindrops and roses. Something more concrete, like the time I had the best laugh while I was sleeping over at his place. He was telling me stories of his childhood and how he played "Superman" with his sister. It made me laugh so hard because I remembered doing the same thing with my sisters. But his story was funnier.

They were on the couch. He was lying on his back with his feet straight up into the air while he held the ankles of his chubby sister, suspending her with the help of his strong manly legs. She would cry, "I'm flying, I'm flying!" with arms outstretched just like Superman. With more leg kicking and twisting in mid-air, she crashed and destroyed the sofa's armrest.

I also remembered his story about how he and his cousins would race on the hills (he lived in a little ski town in Austria) using blankets as capes with their undergarments on their heads. It reminded me of my stupid days when as a kid growing up in Cebu, I would walk in a bathing suit along a major road on my way to the hills to fly my homemade kite. At 10, I did not know that it was a bathing suit. It was made of terry cloth, and who would make bathing suits out of towels? Anyway, I was pretty much a kite addict then, and I'd spend almost every afternoon at the EcoTech grounds to fly my kite. And if I wasn't there, I'd be playing tennis with a bunch of other kids: three versus two.

But where was he? I was running out of happy thoughts and the anticipation was killing me!

I remembered another of his stories when he was a kid going to camp. That little devil was as curious as a cat. In one of his miniature expeditions at camp, he ate something that made him very sick and they had to call his parents to get him. He was asked if he wanted to take the train or the plane. You'd think he would just want to go home and rest. But no, he wanted to see the world, so he chose the train—and had the grandest experience. He got to see the small towns and the countryside of his homeland, the gardens, the mountains, the different homes, and most of all, he discovered his father.

At the tender age of 12, he already was an adventurer, and sickness be damned.

And that brought me back to the present. Indeed, sickness be damned, before it damns you.

I was morose when I finally saw him. "Well it's about time!" I said petulantly.

He had his smile ready, as if to tell me everything was going to be fine. But his eyes were tired and grim.

To make him feel better, I visually cruised the scene until I saw a guy playing Frisbee. He had sandy brown hair and was wearing a green shirt and khaki shorts. I nudged him and point my chin toward this Adonis.

"You can have him," he said. As if.

Our mood didn't change and being the slackers that we were, we decided not to go *back to work.* The world can stop sometimes, you know, if you really want it to, and at that time, we wanted it to.

The light faded into darkness, and there we were just wandering around town. We decided to watch out for satellites, as I had just taught him how to spot those speedy little dwarf stars. Suddenly I saw a chunk of light zoom past and fade into oblivion. It looked like those baby rockets back home during New Year's Eve, with a tail, a head and splinters. Only it looked much farther and smaller so I thought it must be huge meteor entering our atmosphere.

"Wow!" he said in his usual excitable tone.

"Make a wish," I told him, like I was the older one.

He paused a moment, exhaled, and said with finality: "I wish I were straight...and healthy."

At that moment, my heart broke into a million pieces. Me, too, I prayed silently. Me, too.

Lyra Dumdum, 24, has a master's degree in environmental science and works with the Alliance to Save Energy. She is taking part in a marathon to raise funds for AIDS victims in Washington, D.C. in October.

Going against the tide

Connie Gundayao

ALMOST every nurse I know is going to London.

A friend, a senior staff nurse of a public hospital, left last month. Another friend, a former classmate in high school and a member of the faculty of a nursing school, is going there this month. Two former schoolmates of mine are also going to London this year. After working six years in the ICU of a big government hospital, they already deserve to have a monument in their honor, they said.

I am not going to London. I am not planning to work in any foreign land.

For eight years I have worked as a nurse in the community, and I never thought of going abroad like most of my friends and classmates have done. "*Makabayan,*" my former schoolmates and friends rib me. But I can feel a trace of sarcasm there. I think they cannot understand how I could stay in this country where nurses, along with other health workers, have to work long hours but remain underpaid; where every benefit has to be fought for; where every salary increase is easily wiped out by more frequent increases in prices of basic commodities. Or maybe they cannot see how I could continue to work in a field that is as unpopular and definitely not financially rewarding as community work. Perhaps they are puzzled that an honor student in a prestigious school and a board topnotcher would choose a kind of life that is much different from what they dream of.

They have many reasons for leaving, and I perfectly understand all of them. But what most people, including my family, cannot understand is why a nurse like me would choose to stay.

My friends and schoolmates might stay if they could see the face of a malnourished child in a peasant community in Iloilo who most probably will get sick in the days ahead. Or if they could feel the joy of an old man who has seen a rural doctor or a nurse for the first time in his life. Or if they know that after giving a pill to a patient, he will go back home where he will be eating only one meal a day, and so he will come back with the same illness or worse.

I have seen, felt and experience these all—and more. I have seen hope light up the faces of some folks who, after an epidemic of scabies, have united to make herbal ointment, and asked for the services of a doctor and for medicines. I have felt the jubilation of farmers, who during the days of El Niño, succeeded getting rice support from the local government and started planting and harvesting the *bayanihan* way. I have felt the confidence of community health workers increasing after undergoing training on community-based health programs that enable them to see symptoms of various diseases and refer complicated cases to health personnel. I have felt the hope and love of the poorest peasants in the remote barrios I have come to consider as my second home.

All these I will never feel if I choose to serve foreigners in a foreign land.

Life for nurses is never easy in a country that is battered by poverty, sickness and corruption. But life has been most unkind to the farmers and other poor Filipinos.

I never dreamt of having a monument built in my honor; that is best reserved for the faceless martyrs who died serving the people. And I would never be a "*bagong bayani*" who works in an unfamiliar land under unfamiliar laws and sometimes exploitative conditions, helping keep the economy from collapsing by earning dollars.

I have made my choice, and I know it is the right one.

Connie Gundayao, 28, is a graduate of UP College of Nursing. She has worked with community-based health programs in Visayas and Mindanao and is now working with the Health Alliance for Democracy.

From quiet neighborhood to a smelly, noisy market

CITY Hall should stop its plan to construct temporary stalls in front of our houses along the stretch of Franco and Herbosa Streets in Tondo, Manila.

Mayor Lito Atienza plans to renovate the old Pritil market, located on Juan Luna near Tayuman, and wants to put up makeshift stalls in our area, which is a residential area, for the vendors in Pritil market. There are some real concerns that should be considered before they go ahead with the plan:

- In case of fire, no fire truck can enter our street because the stalls constructed on the main road would make it impassable.
- We will not be able to park our cars since passage will be blocked by the stalls constructed in front of our houses.
- *Ang dating tahimik at malinis na lugar* will become a noisy and smelly marketplace.

We have already brought these concerns to the attention of the mayor but he refuses to heed our plea *dahil hindi siya ang napeperwisyo*.—**EVELYN JOSE, 1787 Franco St., Tondo, Manila**

Quicker SSS action on complaints

WE would like to bring to the public the following:

(1) Our support for the reforms initiated by former Social Security System president Vitaliano N. Nañagas to improve the services of the SSS.

(2) Our problem concerns our failure to avail ourselves of benefits due to the non-remittance of SSS contributions.

We understand that the SSS employees are the highest paid government employees in the country. We are told that an ordinary SSS **doctor**, like the union president, receives P40,000 a month or more, and SSS executives are receiving P100,000 up to P250,000 a month.

We do not question their huge salaries. Workers deserve a living wage, as the Constitution mandates. What we are calling for is prompt and efficient service for ordinary workers like us. SSS employees should understand that we are receiving meager salaries, some below the minimum wage of P250 a day in the National Capital Region. We deserve to be treated well when we transact business in SSS offices. After all, the huge salaries and perks that SSS employees enjoy come from our contributions.

We are asking the help of SSS officials so that we can avail ourselves of the benefits due us as members. Since 1997, all of our union members, despite the usual deductions from our pay still cannot avail themselves of SSS benefits because of our employer's failure to remit SSS contributions and salary loan payments. Since 1998, we have sent a number of complaints to SSS Novaliches and the Central Office but up to now no concrete and positive action has been taken on our complaints.

Can we hope for better and quicker results now?—**RODRIGO SERQUIÑA, union president, Allied Metals-FFW Chapter, 460 Quirino Highway, Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City**

High cost and false hope

THIS is in response to the article by Mandy Navasero, "Can Jon Jon play basketball again?"

Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis or SSPE is a progressive fatal disease complication from childhood measles with very limited treatment options. The disease is rare in the United States because of its extensive immunization program. We had one case recently at the Mount Sinai Hospital. An 11-year-old immigrant from Puerto Rico suddenly developed the disease. He was an honor student who began developing persistent myoclonic seizures (sudden involuntary movements of his arms and legs), which literally tied him to his bed. The search for treatment was extensive as we gathered insights from world renowned virologists, who brought up the idea of using Ribavirin, an antiviral drug. The measles expert in Germany had no treatment suggestions and Dr. Generoso Gascon of the Department f Pediatric Neurology at Brown University, who published some studies in Turkey and Saudi Arabia with promising results, had little to add. This is by the administration of Interferon via an Omaya shunt (tube or catheter inside the brain).

The use of IVIG or intravenous immuno globulin alone was never considered as a treatment option in any of the studies we reviewed. The side effects of this drug includes hypotension, flushing of the face, headaches and anxiety as well as allergic reactions.

I think that P87,500 is too much for a cure with no proven benefit ,and to say that with proper medicines he would improve is unfounded ,and may give false hopes to the already suffering parents.—**RAYMUND EDWARD R. DAVID,MD, Department of Pediatrics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine at Elmhurst ,New York, United States**

Wrong cure for prostitution

COUNCILOR Joseph Ortiz of San Jose City has filed an ordinance that seeks to allow "ago-go dancers" to dance on stage provided that they're properly clad. The ordinance would also prohibit sex between customers and entertainers.

I do not advocate dancing naked in front of lust-filled customers and I certainly believe that one's innermost desires can be stimulated even by those who have their clothes on. But whether we like it or not satisfying their customers' sexual desires through dancing scantily clad and by having sex with them is what's primarily keeping these people alive.

Prostitution is one of our biggest social problems and many measures have been tried to stop it, but nothing has succeeded. Maybe the gradual eradication of prostitution is the real reason behind Ortiz's ordinance, and I commend him for that. But he should remember that as long as there are people who want sex for hire and as long as there are people who have to sell their bodies to earn a living, prostitution will be here to stay.

Before we think of eradicating prostitution, we should at least find ways to make the working conditions safer and easier for the sex workers and prepare them for alternative jobs. Otherwise, covering them will only be a cover-up for the reality that nothing is being done for them.

In trying to make this country a better place, many of our officials tend to do things that would simply make conditions worse. The problem is not just how to cover up ago-go dancers, not just about preventing them from having sex with their customers and not just about putting an end to prostitution. It is about women who are coping with life in the only way they know.—**IREENE ANTONETTE FLORES, CSSP-UP Diliman, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Harassment by electronic means

THE VERY informative dissertation contained in the new "Philippine Civil Service Regulations on Sexual Harassment...textings ànd e-mails" by Karina C. David (PDI, 8/10/01) was very enlightening. It should be a must reading for every one.

In the United States, these unwanted and degrading text messages and e-mails are now considered a new form of "bullying by electronics" and is punishable by law in many states. This has come about because of indignant parents of school children united to insist on zero tolerance for any form of bullying (physical, verbal, psychological and by electronics) among children within and outside the schools. It is being done as an extra effort to prevent further random and senseless killings by aggrieved school children.

Many of us have been victimized during our lifetime in one way or another by physical means (with bodily injuries) or by verbal-psychological means (name calling and demeaning insults). The proliferation of malicious text messages and e-mail now in vogue in the Philippines can be eradicated within a few months with the support of very righteous people pushing for the appropriate legislative measure.

The unfortunate and untrue story about a sexual liaison between a politician and TV personality liaison, which was initially spread through texting and picked up and published as a fact by a tabloid, should serve as lesson on how text messages can destroy people's lives or reputations.

A law should be passed punishing with heavy fines and/or imprisonment all violators.—**CONRAD G. JAVIER, MD, Cleveland, Ohio, United States**

A big step toward moral recovery

THERE has been so much ado over the Mike Arroyo issue. If he has to be investigated, so be it. And let the chips fall where they may.

However, this situation must be looked at from the proper perspective. Let us not be swayed by the taunts and jeers of those who desperately want to bring this administration down.

First, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo vetoed the bill that would have handed tremendous power and influence to companies which would have set up a totally unnecessary clearinghouse for telecommunication interconnections. This is something to cheer about in a nation that is hungry for good news. The President rejected a bill that would have spread further demoralization in the business world. She vetoed it, whether or not her husband or friend pushed for its recall.

Second, the bad news: The previous Congress (or a committee thereof?) passed that onerous bill. Do we or did we really have such unthinking lawmakers? Or was it the usual vast amounts of grease money that made their minds go blank?

With Ms Macapagal's action, I feel that the country has taken a big step toward moral recovery. She needs our support, not endless criticism.—**ANGELINA P. GALANG, 16 Marymount, La Vista, Quezon City**

Condoms, chastity and justice

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW years back the University of the Philippines' Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study found that 90 percent of young Filipino men had "negative attitudes" toward condom use.

The idea that condom use is against one's religion only ranked 5th among the negative attitudes. Yet if you examine the other four leading negative attitudes, you'll find that some of them relate to our religious culture, Catholicism in particular. The second leading negative attitude toward condoms consisted of feelings of embarrassment at having to buy a condom at a store. Certainly, those feelings come from the way religious conservatives have depicted condoms, associating them with illicit sex and claiming that condom distribution promotes promiscuity.

The third most prevalent negative attitude was that condoms don't prevent HIV/AIDS. Again, we have religious conservatives to thank for, as they insist condoms have "microscopic holes" that allow HIV to pass. (This is not true at all for latex or rubber condoms.)

It is unfortunate that conservatives have put in so much time into campaigning against condoms, which one local Opus Dei stalwart once labeled as "a diabolical device." Not everyone agrees with such interpretations. One of them, Fr. James Keenan, spoke last week at two local symposia to give a broader view, from moral theology, of condoms. Keenan is a theology professor at Boston's Weston College and has been in the Philippines for several weeks teaching at the Ateneo de Manila. (Ateneo sponsored one of the symposium, which I attended as a reactor.) He has written several books and edited a collection of essays called "Catholic Ethicists on HIV/AIDS Prevention."

Keenan's book on AIDS reflects his approach to the teaching of moral theology: he is rigorous in his scholarship, deftly explaining the Catholic Church's doctrines and documents in the context of day-to-day realities. His book consists of many case studies from different countries around the world, dealing with the many moral and ethical questions and dilemmas that people confront in trying to prevent HIV/AIDS.

To contextualize the issue of condom use, Keenan notes that the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" prohibits artificial contraception but not the use of the contraceptive products themselves. For example, women can use birth-control pills to regulate their menstrual cycle. With that line of reasoning, using a condom to prevent transmission of HIV between a husband and a wife would also be permissible.

When the condom is used outside of marriage, even to prevent HIV/AIDS, we see a different test of moral principles. With or without condoms, the sexual act needs to be evaluated in relation to chastity, fidelity and, curiously, justice. Is it an extramarital affair, for example, that violates marital vows of fidelity? Is there an injustice here in the way the sexual act and the affair betray the wife and maybe, too, deceive the woman who does not know her boyfriend is married?

The HIV/AIDS epidemic complicates the issues around sexual ethics. A man who pays for sex, for example, may be violating principles of chastity or fidelity, but in addition, if he does not use a condom, he is being unjust as well because he may be putting his partner at risk for AIDS, which has no cure and is fatal.

During the open forum, Keenan was asked what he thought about promoting condoms among unmarried people. Keenan again reiterated what he had said about chastity but advised that the final course of action would have to be based on local culture.

I took that statement as a challenge for local groups, religious and secular, to discuss sexual ethics and morality in its broader context, applying various moral principles. I thought, too, of the need to look at how culture sometimes creates conflicts among these principles, which is why we face so many ethical dilemmas.

Let me cite one concrete example. A few years back, in a research project, I found many women sex workers entered the trade after they "lost" their virginity, sometimes because of rape. Families responded by throwing the women out. Left to fend for themselves, the women then ended up in prostitution. We see here an interpretation of chastity that is terribly unjust.

Reflect, as well, on how it is almost impossible for a Filipina wife to protect herself from acquiring a sexually transmitted disease from a philandering husband. Her interpretation of her marital vows is that she cannot refuse sex or ask him to use condoms. During the open forum, someone pointed out that the Catholic Church should exert more effort in its marriage seminars to emphasize mutuality and consent in sex and to remind the men that husbands have no absolute rights over the bodies of their wives. There you have it, a simple example of what the Catholic Church can do, not just to prevent HIV/AIDS but to move forward our discussions of sexual morality and ethics.

Many years ago, Keenan points out, the Catholic Church opposed vaccinations because it introduced "evil" substances into human bodies. Today, those vaccinations are routinely administered even in Catholic hospitals and save millions of lives each year. The HIV/AIDS epidemic challenges us not just to avoid "sinful acts" but to think about how our failure to act may cause suffering and even death.

I'm hopeful that our views on condoms will change, too, as our religious culture evolves away from moralistic and condemning prohibitions toward a life-sustaining ethic. It's time we got back to basics, rooting our faith in our daily lives and social realities. For a start, let's go back to that UP survey I mentioned at the beginning of my article and what the main negative attitude was for young Filipino men: condoms, they whine, decreases sexual pleasure. Translated into a refusal to use condoms, let's reflect on what that means in terms of chastity and justice, mutuality and responsibility.

Three of Keenan's books, including the one on HIV/AIDS, have been reprinted by Claretian Publishers. They should be available at National Bookstores.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Stop romanticizing the 'bahay kubo'

WE have always romanticized the *bahay kubo* and willed it to be in the barrios and villages of our mind, oblivious to the reality that people live and die inside the *bahay kubo*. If one expects the skyline of Manila to change every five years, why can't one expect the same of the barrio? Would it be too radical to romanticize a new split-level chalet with a refrigerator in the kitchen, a TV set and a stereo set, and a power tiller or tractor parked by the side instead of the *bahay kubo*? If we will it, it will happen!

The Americans? I've yet to see a festival romanticizing the log cabin. We can do no less.—**LINO ALDANA, adaldana@uci.edu**

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A demolition job against Lacson

WHAT would be easier to get, a copy of an arrest record or a copy of personal bank accounts from different banks in different countries?

Would it not be damning enough if anyone could just show a copy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's arrest record to prove once and for all that he was indeed caught trying to smuggle millions of dollars into the United States? Why start with unverified bank accounts, and why present it to the media first? Wouldn't it be better to file the case before the Ombudsman and then make the announcement? Now they are complaining that the accounts have been emptied. Well, what did they expect?

If there really is an FBI report, why don't the authorities show it to the public, or give it to the Ombudsman or the Senate blue ribbon committee? Why reveal the findings to media and then say that the report is confidential, and cannot be shown yet?

All this makes me think that what is happening is simply intended to destroy Lacson's reputation. White papers, unverified reports, and speculation—what if these stories were not true? Shall we just say, sorry, Mr. Lacson?

If there is solid evidence (and government officials have been saying this for weeks now), what's stopping them from filing a case against Lacson? They should do this and present the evidence in court. They should put their money where their mouth is and stop bluffing.

As things stand, it looks like a demolition job is going on. And strangely enough, I am feeling sorry for the guy, when before I was ready to piss at him. If they keep this up, enough people would sympathize with him and he might just have enough supporters for 2004.—**MIR C. TILLAH, thisismir@yahoo.com**

Many ROTC grads worthy of emulation

I TOTALLY agree with what Jorge V. Lucero and Dr. Edmundo F. Nolasco wrote in their letters about the Reserved Officers Training Corps last July 9, 2001. Indeed, many of our country's distinguished and loyal soldiers and officers—heroes, both known and unsung—are products of the ROTC.

The few *hilaw* graduates of the ROTC are like the few *hilaw* graduates from the Philippine Military Academy or those from other similar institutions for that matter, since no institution can boast that all their graduates were *hinog* at graduation. It is unfortunate to have these exceptions. What the authorities should do is to throw out the "bad eggs" in both the ROTC ranks and the teaching and training staff.

Add to Nolasco's list of ROTC graduates who became generals my late father Brig. Gen. Flaviano P. Olivares of whom we are very proud. He was the late President Diosdado Macapagal's last Chief of Constabulary.

There are many others of the same breed, who did not make it to the list, but have distinguished themselves as honorable soldiers and gentlemen.

Many other ROTC graduates have distinguished themselves in the military, police and civilian professions. If the people visit the Vanguard Hall of Fame at UP Diliman and other UP campuses they will see the honors bestowed on these men—a clear sign that ROTC graduates are competent, courageous and deserving of emulation.—**MA. FLABETH O. VALERA, 74 May, Congressional Village I, Toro Hills, QC**

Koizumi visits war shrine

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday visited the controversial Yasukuni war shrine despite fierce protests at home and from neighboring Asian neighbors.

But the premier insisted his visit should not call into question Japan's commitment to peace.

Koizumi arrived at the shrine, which was besieged by crowds shortly after 4:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. in Manila)

Ten minutes earlier, pictures broadcast live by Japanese television networks showed Koizumi dressed in a black mourning coat leaving his official residence to get into a black limousine.

The progress of the five-car cortege toward the shrine was relayed live from cameras in helicopters. Crowds lined the avenue to the main gates, many waving the country's sun symbol national flag.

Koizumi is only the third Japanese premier to visit the shrine since convicted war criminals were enshrined there in 1978, following a 1985 trip by Yasuhiro Nakasone and a visit by Ryutaro Hashimoto on his birthday in July 1996.

In a statement read out by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda on Koizumi's behalf shortly before the visit, Koizumi said he did not want his visit to lead to Japan's commitment to peace being misunderstood.

"It is not my wish that my visit to Yasukuni Shrine on the anniversary of the end of the war , which would create doubts about our country's basic philosophy which places priority on peace and the avoidance of war," the statement said.

It did not clarify whether Koizumi regarded his visit as official however, although a source close to the prime minister earlier said so; "He will visit without stressing it is in a public or private capacity."

Koizumi's statement added: "I sincerely accept the current situation (abroad). As prime minister, I decided not to visit on the day (of the anniversary), but make the visit on another day.

"I would like to talk to people in China and South Korea as quickly as possible to exchange opinions about the future development and peace of the Asia Pacific region."

The prime minister had vowed to visit the shrine, which commemorates those who died in conflicts, including wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo who was hanged by the Allies, on Wednesday, the 56th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

But in recent days it seemed increasingly likely he would bring forward or delay the trip in a bid to avoid irking angry Asian neighbors, including China and South Korea.

As word spread that he would go to Yasukuni, thousands of people converged on the shrine located just across the road from the Imperial Palace moat.

"I do not understand why people in foreign countries are opposed to Japanese pilgrimages to a shrine dedicated to the Japanese war dead," said Sui Hozuni, a 67-year-old housewife.

"I have been rather hoping that Mr. Koizumi as Japan's prime minister would visit here."

White chrysanthemums and lilies sent by Koizumi over the weekend were displayed yesterday morning at the main shrine, where preparations were under way for visits by politicians and bereaved families to commemorate the anniversary.

Despite beginning a 16-day summer vacation Saturday, Koizumi held a meeting with Fukuda in Tokyo yesterday before making a final decision on the timing of his visit.

China and South Korea have denounced the visit, which they argued would justify Japan's militarist past.

Protests continued in Tokyo with some 60 people, including nine South Korean hunger strikers, staging a sit-in near the premier's office.

"Yasukuni is not a place of reconciliation," Yukio Hatoyama, president of the largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan, was quoted as saying by the Financial Times.

"Mr. Koizumi's intention to visit Yasukuni sends the wrong diplomatic signals," Hatoyama said. "It will be taken as condoning Japan's invasion of Asia and as an attempt to blur responsibility for the war." *AFP*

20 S. Koreans severe fingers in protest

SEOUL—Twenty South Korean men chopped off the tips of their little fingers yesterday in a public protest at a visit by Japan's Prime Minister to a war shrine that pays tribute to war criminals.

The protest was staged in a Seoul park near the Independence Gate that was used as a jail for anti-Japanese fighters when the Korean peninsula was occupied by Japan from 1910 to 1945.

The men, dressed in black, cut off their fingers before doctors used South Korean national flags to bandage their wounds. The fingers were left in a pile on one flag.

Nearly all aged in their 20s, the men called themselves the "Save The Nation Squad."

Cutting off the little finger is a traditional gesture in South Korea to show determination. It was often used in the past by gangsters. *AFP*

Bayer: Anti-cholesterol drug suspected in 52 deaths

LEVERKUSEN, Germany—The German pharmaceutical company Bayer yesterday said 52 deaths worldwide could have been caused by an anti-cholesterol drug made by the company, which was withdrawn from the market last week.

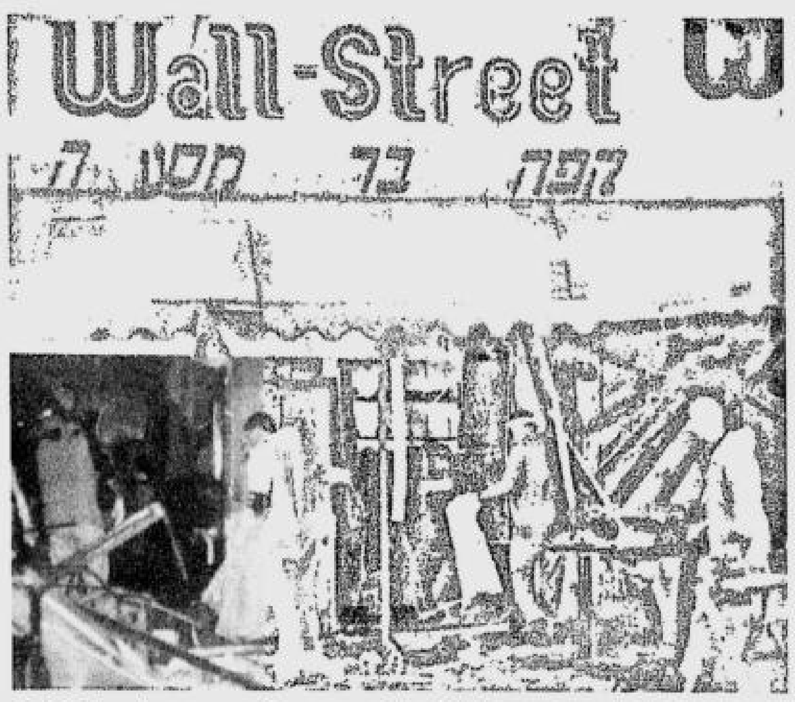
Until now the drug had been linked to 31 deaths in the United States, up to six in Germany, three in Spain, and one case was being investigated in France.

The head of Bayer's pharmaceutical division David Ebsworth, during a press conference yesterday said "currently, we know about 52 deaths," which could be linked to the use of Baycol/Lipoday.

But he said that so far it was difficult to be certain about links between use of the drug and the causes of death.

Bayer withdrew the drug from markets worldwide last week, except in Japan, after the discovery of harmful side-effects, such as muscle degeneration, when the medicine was used with another anti-cholesterol drug called Gemfibrozil.

Baycol/Lipoday was not withdrawn from the Japanese market because Gemfibrozil is not available there. *AFP*



POLICE and rescue workers search the Wall Street restaurant, scene of a bomb blast near the northern Israeli town of Haifa Aug. 12 after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives, killing himself and wounding 15 people. AP

Suicide bomber hurts 15 in northern Israel

KIRYAT MOTZKIN, Israel—A Palestinian suicide bomber killed himself and wounded 15 people at a restaurant in northern Israel on Sunday and Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian child in a firefight in the West Bank.

Israeli soldiers shot eight-year-old Sabreen Ijrewi in the head and wounded another 12 people during an exchange of fire with Palestinian gunmen in the city of Hebron, local witnesses and hospital sources said.

The Israeli Army said it was checking the report and added that two Israeli border police had been wounded when the Palestinians opened fire on Israeli forces and a Jewish neighborhood in the divided city.

The explosion in the Wall Street restaurant in the town of Kiryat Motzkin, north of the port of Haifa, followed an attack in Jerusalem on Thursday in which 15 people were killed as well as the Palestinian suicide bomber.

The blast at the Jerusalem pizzeria was the worst attack in the city since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September after peace negotiations broke down.

The militant group Islamic Jihad said in a statement sent to Reuters in Beirut that one of its members, 28-year-old Muhammad Mahmoud Nasr, had carried out Sunday's attack. *Reuters*

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Big Malaysian firm enters local insurance market

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MESSAGES

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(Sgd.) **EDUARDO MALINIS**
Commissioner
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Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 26° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/14/01

ROUNDUP

Shabu suspects nabbed

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police arrested on Wednesday two men who were caught allegedly packaging shabu being sold to high school students here. Chief Insp. Teodoro de los Santos, police intelligence chief, identified the suspects as Nicanor Gelacio and Ariel Panganiban, both of Barangay Don Mariano Perez here. The suspects were arrested following a police buy-bust operation. Seized from them were 3 grams of shabu worth P15,000, marked P500 bills, shabu paraphernalia and a notebook containing names and phone numbers of suspected customers.
Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Outstanding Quezonians

LUCENA CITY—Ten outstanding Quezonians will be recognized on the 123rd birth anniversary of the late President Manuel Quezon on Aug. 19. Bishop Alfredo Obviar will be awarded (posthumous) the Gintong Medalya ng Karangalan in the category of evangelization. Obviar's works are now under scrutiny for his eventual elevation to sainthood. Other awardees to receive the Medalya ng Karangalan are Judge Ricardo Rosales for judiciary (posthumous); Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, law enforcement; Vicente Salumbides, arts (posthumous); and actor Roy Alvarez, environment and arts. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Daragang Magayon Fest

DARAGA, Albay—Officials and residents of this town will launch the Daragang Magayon Festival on Aug. 26 to Sept. 8. The festival, showcasing the Daragueño culture, will be highlighted by a Marian procession depicting how the settlers of Cagsawa escaped the Feb. 2, 1814 eruption of Mayon Volcano while carrying the image of their patron Nuestra Señora de la Porteria. Town officials hope to generate funds to keep the festival alive and to help families displaced by Mayon's recent eruption.
Joanna Bernal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Express trains operational

CALAMBA CITY—The Commuter Express (Commex) trains recently inaugurated by President Macapagal-Arroyo started plying the Calamba-Tayuman route last Monday. Capt. Rogelio Quintans, Calamba PNR station manager, said two air-conditioned coaches began the first two trips from Calamba at 5:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. Quintans said the fare is 30 percent lower than a regular bus fare. Ten units of the trains were supposed to operate initially and 20 other aircon coaches "will soon be operational to provide 22 train schedules at intervals of 30 minutes," a PNR statement said.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mistaken as pusher

SAN PABLO CITY—Police claimed it mistook a government soldier they shot dead for a drug suspect because he was armed, drunk and ruggedly dressed. Killed was Army Cpl. Perseverando Cerdenia Jr. of the Task Force Banahaw of the 1st Infantry Battalion. SPO1 Jerryson Laguras, one of two policemen on duty at the city police station last Tuesday, said the victim pointed his firearm at him and fellow officer SPO1 Armando Demejes. Laguras said they acted in self-defense when they shot Cerdenia and his buddy, SPO1 Armando Recio Demejes.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hacienda Luisita benefits

HACIENDA Luisita Inc. (HLI) recently observed its 12th year of operations under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) by distributing the cash equivalent of its farm workers' 3 percent share in the firm's gross revenue for 2000-2001. Don Pedro Cojuangco, HLI president, turned over to the farm workers more than P10 million in their share of the firm's gross sale from production last year. HLI gives farm workers every year the cash equivalent of 3 percent of the firm's gross sales regardless of the firm's net earnings. In a statement, HLI said the farm workers' share in the firm's gross production income was part of their benefits under the stock distribution option (SDO) provided for by the CARL. HLI and the farm workers entered into an agreement in 1989 to enforce the SDO in the hacienda as an option to distributing parcels of land planted to sugarcane, which the HLI said would have rendered the property unproductive. HLI said it has given its workers a total of P112.6 million in their share of the firm's gross production earnings on top of the workers' wages and other benefits.

28 dead, 29 missing in floods, landslide in Mindanao, Negros

AT LEAST 28 persons died and 29 others were reported missing in flash floods and a landslide that hit Western and Central Mindanao and Negros Occidental.

Damage to infrastructure and farm crops in Mindanao was placed at P600 million.

Twenty-one deaths and 26 missing persons were reported after floods hit Western and Central Mindanao over the weekend.

In Zamboanga del Norte, floods triggered by heavy rain since Friday hit the towns of Manukan, Jose Dalman, Sindanagan and Siocon.

Manukan, some 30 kilometers from Dipolog City, was the most affected in Zamboanga del Norte.

Manukan Mayor Teresa Caballero identified some of those killed as Stephanie Lucas, 3, of Barangay Upper Disakan; Releto Recososa; a certain Mocasib; Ganggang Boller; Carol Aliga; and Dominador Isig.

Eight bodies have remained unidentified.

About P8 million worth of infrastructure and farm crops were damaged.

A woman, identified as Aida Baquilta, was also killed in Barangay Siparok, Manukan. Four children were reported missing in the village.

Central Mindanao

Four persons were killed while 15 others were reported missing when floods struck Central Mindanao.

Rampaging floodwaters washed away a bridge in Maguindanao that links Cotabato and General Santos cities.

Citing reports from village health workers, Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said floods swept away at least 20 houses.

The Labo-labo River, one of the many tributaries of Daguma Ranges in Sultan Kudarat, overflowed starting at 3 a.m. Sunday after water from South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat reached the Liguasan marshland.

Floods also hit the upland town of Ninoy Aquino in Sultan Kudarat, killing Leonita Ado.

Four other persons were reported missing in Ninoy Aquino.

In Kidapawan City, an upland community at the foot of Mt. Apo, a woman drowned while crossing the Marbel River. Another child has been reported missing since Sunday.

Norie Unas, provincial administrator, said at least 11 persons, mostly children, were reported missing in Ampatuan, Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano.

Logging blamed

Unas blamed the flooding on rampant logging in the mountains of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and South Cotabato.

Almost P500 million worth of infrastructure and agricultural products were destroyed, according to agriculture officials.

"The water along the Labo-Labo River in Shariff Aguak suddenly swelled that caught the residents by surprise," Sulaik said.

"As of (Monday), more than 2,000 families have fled their homes in Shariff Aguak and Ampatuan towns, with children and work animals in tow," Sulaik told Radio dxMS.

Macmod Mending, National Irrigation Administration director for Central Mindanao, said the flooded communities were service areas of the Kabulnan irrigation system in Shariff Aguak.

He said water flowing from the Kabulnan River had to be blocked as floodwater from Allah River reached the Liguasan Marsh, a catch basin of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Unas said Shariff Aguak, Ampatuan, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Kabuntalan, Talitay, Pagalungan, Pagagawan, SK Pendatun, Buluan and Sultan sa Barongis had been under shoulder-deep floodwater.

Also submerged were low-lying villages in Pigcawayan, Libungan, Midsayap, Aleosan, Pikit, M'lang, Kabacan and Tulunan towns in North Cotabato.

Unas urged President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was in Cotabato yesterday, to conduct an aerial check on the affected communities.

In Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, local officials urged Malacañang and the National Disaster Coordinating Council to immediately provide monetary aid and relief assistance as the flooding entered its third day.

Two more bodies were retrieved in Tambulig town, bringing the number of fatalities to seven.

Tambulig Mayor Edward Balaod identified one of the victims as Manuel Bantoc.

Gov. Aurora Cerilles yesterday ordered the release of P5 million as initial fund for the seven flood-stricken towns.

In General Santos City, flash floods triggered by continuous downpour since last week displaced 605 families from two villages and destroyed about P15 million worth of property and infrastructure.

According to the City Disaster Coordinating Council, the most affected barangay was Calumpang, with 470 families displaced, most of them living along the riverbank.

In Barangay Labangal, 135 families were evacuated and sought shelter at the Acharon Sports Complex in Calumpang and in Balunto Elementary School in Labangal.

A total of 204 houses were destroyed while 230 houses were damaged.

In Zamboanga City, several barangays have been under water due to continuous heavy downpour since last week.

Negros landslide

The death toll from floods and landslide in southern Negros Occidental has risen to seven, while three others are still missing, Eric Villaluna of the Provincial Disaster Management Team said yesterday.

The fatalities were reportedly victims of drowning in floods that hit Hinobaan town, 199 kilometers south of Bacolod.

Villaluna identified two of them as Teofilo Negre, a supervisor of Philex Mining Corp., and a certain Rudy. The third fatality was a child.

One person was also reported missing in Hinobaan.

The two children who were carried by floodwaters Saturday night in Barangay Santol, Binalbagan town, 62 km south of Bacolod, were still missing as of yesterday. They were Ronick Claveria, 9, and his sister Iris, 3.

The body of their mother, Nida Claveria, 42, was found floating along Sitio Tilangkoy, Barangay Payao, also in Binalbagan.

Claveria was trying to bring her children to safety as floodwaters were about to engulf her house about 10:45 p.m. on Saturday. Their house was just five meters from the riverbank.

Her husband Romulo survived with their two other children, Kenneth, 8, and Arian, 4.

In Himamaylan City, 82 km from Bacolod, Mayor Carminia Bascon yesterday confirmed that three persons were killed in a landslide that hit Sitio Tugas, Barangay Carabalan around 9 p.m. Saturday. *Reports from Edwin Fernandez, Lullie Micabalo, Hernan de la Cruz, Aquiles Zonio, Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PURGE

GRACE CANTAL ALBASIN

Soldiers and civilian volunteers unearth in Salay, Misamis Oriental the remains of what the military said were communist guerrillas and cadres who fell victims to a purge by the communist movement in the early 1980s of suspected government spies.

Trader seized, freed as cops pursue gunmen

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A 56-year-old businesswoman was kidnapped here and later rescued by the police in Roxas, Isabela, about 70 kilometers from here, on Sunday night.

Reports said three armed men barged into the compound of Vicente and Editha Chua in Barangay Ugac Norte here at 8:15 p.m. Sunday and took Editha with them.

Supt. Antonio Paguirigan, Tuguegarao City police chief, said the Chua couple arrived in their house aboard the family car.

When their maid was about to close the gate, armed men alighted from a dark blue Toyota Corolla parked near Chuas' house and forced themselves inside the compound.

At gunpoint, the suspects asked Vicente to go with them but they hit him with a pistol when he resisted.

Paguirigan said this prompted Editha to beg the armed men to take her instead as her husband has been suffering from a heart ailment.

Reports from the regional police office said the suspects took Editha and blindfolded her. Police said the suspects later transferred Editha to a Mitsubishi Adventure van with plate No. WSX 299 and sped toward Santiago City.

Vicente reported the incident to the police and Mayor Randolph Ting who, in turn, coordinated with the Isabela police to pursue the suspects.

Barricades

Supt. James Melad, Isabela police director, immediately ordered his men to establish barricades and checkpoints and to deploy more policemen along possible escape routes of the armed men in Isabela.

At the checkpoints in Quezon and Mallig towns in Isabela, the suspects' van rammed the barricades set up by the police. They also ignored the policemen's warning shots.

In Roxas town, another barricade was put up and manned by more policemen led by Melad.

When the suspects' van did not appear, the police team went northward to Quezon town.

The police learned that before reaching Roxas, the suspects turned left to the Quirino-Roxas Road but they ran into a mound of gravel that damaged their vehicle.

The suspects escaped by using another getaway car and left the wounded Editha inside the car.

Barangay Captain Ricarte Ilarde of Doña Concha in Roxas town found Editha in the car.

Ilarde told police that he thought it was only a simple accident. He said when he looked inside the car, he saw a woman, who turned out to be Editha Chua, whose hands were tied.

Ting and Paguirigan accompanied Editha back to Tuguegarao. She was taken to the Cagayan Valley Medical Center here.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos, police regional director, said the Chuas had initially offered P50,000 for the arrest of the suspects.

"We have already leads that could identify the suspects. We will arrest them soon," he told the INQUIRER. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Lawyer, 2 others charged with rape

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A 16-year-old girl has filed a rape case against a lawyer, her former teacher and one of her classmates at the Municipal Trial Court in Bobon, Northern Samar.

The girl filed the rape case early last week against lawyer Decoroso Eco, who was the principal accused, and Jeffrey Delumen, her former teacher, and her classmate Jonathan Leaño as accomplices. The case is now docketed as Criminal Case No. 6015.

The girl earlier filed with the help of the National Bureau of Investigation a child abuse case in court against Eco, Delumen and Leaño, also at the Bobon Municipal Trial Court on July 17.

This resulted in the arrest last July 20 of Delumen and Leaño. Eco posted a P200,000 bail bond for his temporary liberty.

Eco and his co-accused have vehemently denied the charges.

The girl, a fourth year high school student in Catarman, Northern Samar, claimed that in the afternoon of May 23, 2001, Eco allegedly raped her at the Dancalan Beach Resort in Bobon town.

Delumen and Leaño were allegedly the ones who brought and introduced the girl to the lawyer.

Lawyer Romeo Resuello, counsel for the victim, was quoted by a local daily as saying that they have enough evidence in the rape case against Eco and the two other accused.

After the preliminary hearing, Bobon MTC presiding Judge Alma Consuelo Esidera decided not to issue a warrant of arrest against the suspects as Delumen and Leaño, who were unable to post the P200,000 bail, are now detained at the Bobon municipal jail.

Eco, who is out on bail for the child abuse case, will not flee and will face the charges filed against him because he knew his rights as a lawyer and a member of the Bar, Esidera said.

PNP chief says crime rate down 14 percent

DIRECTOR General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, yesterday said the fight against crime is gaining ground nationwide.

In a statement, Mendoza said the total crime volume in the country fell by 14 percent in the first six months of the year compared to last year's figures.

He attributed the decline in criminality to increased police visibility.

While he admitted that more kidnapping cases are being reported now, it was because the victims now trust the police enough to report the crimes.

He said the number of suspects who had been arrested in connection with kidnappings increased to 156 from only 18 last year, an increase of more than 700 percent and an indication, according to Mendoza, that the PNP is now more serious in its war against kidnappings.

Policemen, he said, now patrol the streets of key urban areas in pairs. "What is important is that they are there to discourage crime," he said.

He added that efforts to reform the PNP are on track and would result in a police force that would have pride in itself.

Lead, witnesses found in killing of Espinosa

LEGAZPI CITY—A top police official here said investigators now have a lead and are tracking down the suspects in the Friday killing of Masbate City Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr. and two others.

Newly installed Masbate police provincial director Supt. Antonio Enteria said police are now holding some witnesses that could identify the assailants who shot dead Espinosa and civilians Fidela Marcos and Henry Regalado.

A fourth victim of the Friday morning shooting, Gennesil Cunanan, 14, died later from a bullet wound at the Masbate Colleges Hospital.

Four others were injured during the attack.

"We now have sketches of the suspects based on the descriptions by the witnesses," Enteria added.

Espinosa was fired upon during a public dance after midnight that was held in time for the fiesta celebration of Barangay Bantique in Masbate.

He suffered at least four gunshot wounds.

Enteria said an autopsy report revealed that Espinosa had a wound caused by an M-16 Armalite rifle bullet, believed to be the first bullet to hit him, and wounds inflicted by bullets from .45 caliber and 9 mm pistols.

Enteria said he immediately formed the Task Force Espinosa to go after the killers.

Enteria said the witnesses told investigators that the assassins, a woman and four men, boarded a pump boat that docked in Barangay Bantique.

The pump boat was later recovered by lawmen in a secluded coastal village.

Aside from the Masbate police force, an eight-man team of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Bicol was sent to Masbate to help in the investigation.

Supt. Benito Estipona, CIDG Bicol regional officer, said they are conducting an independent investigation to help Task Force Espinosa find speedy justice for the slain mayor.

Former Masbate vice governor Mario Espinosa said the death of Moises Jr. had brought to their clan another injustice since the killings of former congressmen Moises Sr. and Tito Espinosa are still unsolved.

Mayor Espinosa will be buried on Aug. 18 at the family mausoleum in Barangay Tugbo, Masbate City.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Kim: I'm Ping's pal but not a drug lord

(From page A1)

time" with evidence to support the charges.

Corpus alleged that Lacson and Wong had "shipped in a total of P250 billion worth of drugs so far, and some were consumed here while the others were transshipped to other countries."

"They have used the Philippines as a transshipment point for drugs in the international market," Corpus said.

Corpus showed reporters a grainy colored photograph of a man—whom he identified as Wong—with cropped hair speaking on a cellular phone.

He alleged that Lacson was principally in charge of the alleged drug trafficking, while Wong was his financier and purchasing agent with close ties to the Chinese "14-K" drug syndicate.

The Isafp head said the alleged Lacson-led ring had grown to become the biggest and most influential among the country's drug traffickers.

"Ping is the lord of all drug lords," Corpus repeated to reporters.

'Ordinary businessman'

Asked why his old cellular phone number was registered in Wong's name, Lacson said he had used the phone "for security purposes" and had given Wong the money for the bills.

"I was in the (police service), of course you don't want the cellular phone to be identified with you, so you borrow ones from your friends," Lacson said.

He said he used the phone last year, but returned it before the campaign period for the May elections.

Lacson dared Corpus to file a case against Wong if he has the goods on Wong, "and not go on ruining the reputation of innocent individuals."

In his statement, Wong said "I would have wanted to remain silent about this whole matter. But I can no longer bear to see my wife and children suffer the insults and questions hurled against them by their friends and schoolmates."

Wong described himself as an "ordinary businessman in the restaurant and garment businesses" whose earnings were all legitimate.

He said he was linked to the illegal drug trade as early as 1999, and that he approached Narcotics Command chief Gen. Reinor Gonzales for the purpose of clearing his name.

"After a thorough investigation, General Gonzales cleared me of any involvement in the illegal drug trade," Wong said.

But Corpus accused Wong of being Lacson's point man in befriending judges and legislators, and claimed that "their influence has seeped into our courts and even the legislature."

Full Palace backing

Malacañang has given him the authority to pursue the investigation into Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, according to Corpus.

"I have the full backing of Malacañang," he said with apparent confidence.

He did not, however, provide information about when Lacson and Wong were supposed to have started in the drug business, or the means they purportedly used to smuggle the narcotics into and out of the country.

The Isafp chief said he would disclose more information at an appropriate hearing.

He also said Col. Mario Chan, leader of an intelligence team which investigated Lacson's alleged hidden wealth in the United States, would be recalled from his post as defense attaché to India in order to brief officials on Lacson's alleged drug trafficking activities.

Corpus said earlier that he was preparing an intelligence report on Lacson and Wong for the President. Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Palace had not yet received the report as of yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo "is treating such reports as operational details of an AFP unit engaged in national security and anti-crime operations," Tiglao said.

No gag order

In an interview, Lacson called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "put her attack dogs on leashes" before they scare away "legitimate businessmen."

"The signal it sends is that if you're a friend of someone who is (a) perceived enemy of the administration, you are bound to be politically persecuted as well. It has a chilling effect among investors as the Isafp chief can pounce on them anytime," Lacson said.

Wong echoed his assessment. "Corpus' actions threaten legitimate businessmen and ordinary individuals who, if they are friends of people who do not see eye to eye with the Isafp chief, face the danger of political persecution," the restaurant owner said.

But Tiglao told reporters that the President would not stop Corpus from airing his allegations in to the media.

Any such gag order should first be issued by Corpus' superior, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, then by defense secretary, Tiglao said.

"Obviously, since Gen. (Diomedio) Villanueva and Secretary (Angelo) Reyes haven't issued such an order, they approve of Col. Corpus talking to the press," he added.

Corpus said that, unless stopped, drug traffickers might eventually occupy top positions in government.

"Drug money can rule this country," Corpus said. "There is a danger we will fall under the influence of narco-politics, just like Colombia."

8 out of 10 believe Ping has huge dollar deposits

EIGHT out of 10 respondents in an INQ7.net online poll believe that Sen. Panfilo Lacson has huge dollar deposits overseas as alleged by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

A total of 2,624 poll respondents, or 87 percent, said that they accepted as true Corpus' claims that Lacson holds multimillion dollar bank accounts in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States on his own or jointly with his wife Alice De Perio-Lacson and with ousted president Joseph Estrada.

Eleven percent, or 346 respondents, said that they did not believe Corpus, while only one percent (40 respondents) said they did not know if the allegations were true or not.

A total of 3,010 participated in the online poll of INQ7.net, the news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc. The poll started on Aug. 9.

The poll was not scientific and reflected the opinion only of Internet users who had chosen to participate. Readers' feedback on the Lacson-Corpus issue can be viewed at www.inq7.net.

Bishops tell gov't: If you have goods on Ping, file raps

(From page A1)

four-page waiver, Lacson said that he would file a measure excluding elected and appointed officials from protection under bank secrecy laws to ensure transparency and deter corruption.

On Sunday, he told the INQUIRER that he would file the measure yesterday, but he did not.

Lacson also plans to file another resolution asking the Senate to scrutinize the operations of a joint military and police intelligence team that investigated his alleged accounts and assets in California in June.

Corpus will sign

Corpus noted that Lacson earlier said he would sign such a waiver if the Isafp chief signed one first.

"Since the good senator wants me to sign my own waiver, I am taking him up on his challenge," Corpus said. "He can also prepare a waiver which I will sign."

The waiver prepared by Corpus principally covers 18 bank accounts in the US, Hong Kong and Canada which are allegedly held singly or jointly by Lacson, his wife Alice and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The waiver includes a separate account under the name of Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito in the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank.

All the accused and two of the concerned banks have denied the existence of the accounts. Estrada plans to file a P100-million libel suit against Corpus and the INQUIRER, which first published his claims.

The waiver also allows the Isafp to look into transactions involving Lacson's alleged property in the United States.

Corpus has claimed that the former Philippine National Police chief did not truthfully declare the assets, which allegedly include several houses.

In a briefing yesterday, Corpus said: "The US property was not reflected in his 1999 statement of assets and liabilities."

Ombudsman waiting

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he has ordered a "number of officials," including Corpus, to submit any documentary evidence they have against Lacson.

Desierto told reporters that he sent out subpoenas last week and expected to receive "the documents that are pertinent to the investigation" either this week or next week.

He said it was too early to tell whether he would send investigators abroad to gather evidence against the senator for purposes of prosecution.

"We will cross the bridge when we get there," he told a news conference.

Desierto said his office was meanwhile "communicating with some officials" in Hong Kong where Corpus claims Lacson and former President Joseph Estrada held questionable accounts in Citibank. The bank has denied that the account numbers are listed in its records.

At a press forum at the Manila Hotel, Mendoza admitted that "we don't have bank certificates" to prove that Lacson maintained any of the accounts Corpus has identified as the senator's.

Mendoza, however, said the team of investigators was still gathering more evidence, both abroad and locally, to build a strong case against Lacson.

"We have some evidence but we need to strengthen it. There are a lot of sources here who are willing to testify," he said.

For their part, opposition senators sought to exclude Corpus from any investigation of Lacson.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon proposed that with the feud between Lacson and Corpus heating up, the Isafp should consider turning over the case to the NBI.

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, warned that the military investigation could drag the Armed Forces into a "political controversy."

"Since the charges are criminal in nature, I think it is just right that it should be the police agencies that should conduct the investigation," he said. ***With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan and Armand Nocum***

Ombudsman orders probe of telecom scam

(From page A1)

Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Initially, Desierto was reluctant to look into the matter because the controversy centered on Arroyo, who, he noted, is "a private citizen." But he ordered his men to conduct a preliminary inquiry.

He said the investigators submitted to him last weekend a report showing that there might be some "malfeasance" by some government officials.

"Only some impropriety on the part of certain officials were noted by our investigators," Desierto said in Taglish.

He later clarified that "all we have found is possible irregularity in the performance of official duty by some public officials," and that "no anomaly was seen."

"Impropriety may only amount to an administrative infraction, but not a really serious criminal offense," Desierto said. "But since there is possible impropriety, then we have reason now to take jurisdiction over the matter."

The controversy broke when reports that a group within the Palace received P50 million to convince the President to recall her veto of two telecommunications franchise bills.

The reports supposedly caused the President's correspondence secretary, Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, to resign because she felt alluded to by insinuations from the First Gentleman's camp that it was she who had received the bribe.

Rodrigo said it was actually Arroyo and some of his subordinates who had received the money. But she later clarified that she had only heard this information from other sources.

Arroyo denied involvement in the alleged bribery.

Desierto earlier told the INQUIRER that the fact-finding panel wanted to question Rodrigo, Arroyo and Malou Nuñez, a consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication, in connection with the matter.

Nuñez came out on radio saying she had only learned about Arroyo's supposed involvement through text messages sent to her cellular phone.

Feeling

Asked whether the results so far of the ongoing fact-finding efforts meant that the Ombudsman now had jurisdiction over the case, Desierto said: "(That is our) feeling.

"Since we see that there may be some irregularity by a public official, then we can get into the picture. (This is why we are engaged in formal) fact-finding. We have given the fact-finding bureau 30 days only to complete (its work)."

Desierto said the fact-finding team was set to "interview some of the personalities who might have a hand not only in the passage of the bills but also in the move to allegedly have (the veto) recalled."

"All these will be looked into, anyway," he added. "(The members of the fact-finding team) have been moving around for the past three days, and I hope they can complete (the job) this week."

Desierto clarified that his office's efforts at present were "not addressed to any particular public official because there are no respondents yet."

"We are investigating the reported incident. We're not investigating a specific person like Mr. Arroyo," he said.

Asked for the names of the persons already questioned by the fact-finding panel, Desierto said: "I think most of the people mentioned (in the news reports) have already been interviewed."

Asked whether Arroyo was among them, he said: "Yes."

Zumel, ex-newsman and NDF leader, dies

(From page A1)

Manila Bulletin had been a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines since 1980, honorary chair of the NDF since 1994, and senior adviser of the NDF negotiating panel since 1992.

He chaired the NDF in 1990-94 and was a member of the NDF negotiating panel in 1986-87.

NDF consultant Vic Ladlad said Zumel died around 8:55 a.m. (3:55 p.m. in Manila) in a hospital in Utrecht.

Zumel's body is lying in state at his home in Utrecht, according to a statement issued here by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Cremation is scheduled on Aug. 18.

After many years in exile, Zumel returned to the Philippines last June together with his wife Ruth de Leon and fellow NDF negotiators Luis Jalandoni and Coni Ledesma to attend the Solidarity Conference for a Just and Lasting Peace.

The conference, hosted by Catholic and Protestant bishops, was held preparatory to the resumption of peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF.

"He was confined in hospital about four times while he was here," family friend Fides Lim said. "He had had several strokes, and even underwent dialysis. Apparently, it was only his will power that sustained him."

Zumel returned to his base in the Netherlands in July to avail himself of socialized medical treatment for his failing kidneys.

Bayan said that as president of the National Press Club in the 1970s, Zumel opened the doors of the NPC to demonstrating activists being pursued by anti-riot police. He also provided space in the NPC for leaders of militant groups needing a venue for press conferences.

He left newspapering and joined the revolutionary underground in 1972.

Bayan said it issued a special citation in June hailing the "valuable contributions of Comrade Antonio Zumel in advancing the national democratic revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people."

"He is an example for emulation by our activists for his dedication, courage, perseverance and selflessness in the course of serving the people," Bayan said.

Zumel was also founding chair of the Amado V. Hernandez Foundation. He was awarded the Gawad Marcelo H. del Pilar, the highest citation given the College Editors Guild of the Philippines. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

Wine drinkers are healthier, richer, brighter

(From page A1)

to 34 said wine drinkers also tended to have a higher socioeconomic status and score higher in intelligence tests than beer or liquor drinkers.

The study, conducted by the Danish Epidemiology Science Center in Copenhagen, speculated that this had ramifications for physical health.

"Our results suggest that wine drinking is associated with optimal social, intellectual and personality functioning," wrote study author Erik Mortensen in the Archives of Internal Medicine, a journal published by the American Medical Association.

In the study, beer-drinking men scored poorly in personality disorder tests for anxiety and neuroticism compared to wine drinkers.

Beer drinkers, particularly men, also consumed more alcohol and were more likely to abuse it.

"The dramatic IQ differences and differences in personality measures between wine drinkers and beer drinkers strongly suggest that wine and beer drinking in Denmark is associated with many known and unknown factors that may affect health, morbidity and mortality," Mortensen said.

"Wine drinking was consistently associated with higher scores in parental social status, parental education and the subjects' years in school and social status," he added.

Previous studies have shown that light to moderate red wine consumption relieves stress and improves blood circulation, both deterrents to heart disease, and is linked to good self-perceived health.

Ingredients in red wine are also believed to lower the risk of several health problems, including stroke, upper digestive tract cancer, lung cancer and hip fracture.

Overall mortality rates among wine drinkers are lower than for those who drink beer or alcohol, or for those who abstain, according to previous research. ***Reuters***

GMA: Give Moro self-rule a chance

(From page A1)

the proposal was sure to lose in key areas, like Zamboanga City.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat said his city "already enjoys local autonomy through the local government code" and found no impetus in joining the ARMM.

"We do not want to experience the hardship of our Muslim brothers in the ARMM," said North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pinol.

Even Pax Mangudadato, the Muslim governor of the multisectarian Sultan Kudarat province, is adopting a similar stance.

"We are better off today. Why should we join ARMM?" he said. "It would be like bashing our own head with a rock."

Not discouraged

Ms Macapagal, however, was not discouraged. At the Estosan Garden Hotel, she urged Cotabato City officials to change their stand against the city's inclusion in the ARMM.

"There are many advantages and disadvantages if Cotabato City joins the ARMM and becomes the permanent seat of the autonomous region," she told the local officials, suggesting that Mayor Muslimin Sema could even become the next ARMM governor come election time.

During the same occasion, Ms Macapagal swore in Sema as the new chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, replacing ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari.

Misuari earlier lost out in a power struggle within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that forged in 1996 a peace pact with Manila in exchange for the establishment of the ARMM.

Misuari was ousted as MNLF chair and replaced by an executive council led by Sema.

Misuari accused Malacañang of plotting his ouster and called on Muslims to boycott the plebiscite that he described as an "exercise in futility."

Misuari said the government violated the 1996 peace accord when it left out the MNLF in deciding to hold the plebiscite.

"This exercise is doomed to fail," he said in a radio interview.

MILF skeptical

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is currently holding peace talks with the government, said it would not participate in the plebiscite.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the ARMM's failure to improve the plight of Muslim Filipinos validated his group's objective of an independent Islamic nation in resource-rich but impoverished Mindanao.

"We can see that this is one proof that the government formula of autonomy is a failure. Nothing has improved," Kabalu said.

Misuari has been widely criticized for failing to deliver on his promise to develop the ARMM. He has accused the government, however, of failing to provide adequate financial support to the region.

"Let's change that record. Let's work for peace and development. Let's bring 21st century modern management to the ARMM," Ms Macapagal said in Cotabato City.

To show her concern for the development of Muslim areas in Mindanao, she inaugurated rehabilitated portions of the Narciso Ramos Highway in Matanog, Maguindanao. The major road linking the cities of Cotabato and Marawi was destroyed in the military offensive against MILF camps last year.

Ms Macapagal also inaugurated an agricultural project in Barira, also in Maguindanao, despite the heavy rains.

Comelec

Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo said he expected 70 percent of the eligible voters to troop to 27,421 precincts in 6,804 barangays in today's plebiscite.

Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, however, said she did not expect a huge turnout because of inadequate information on the plebiscite.

She said poll officials were also having problems delivering plebiscite materials to far-flung areas, raising the possibility that no balloting might take place at all in those areas.

Security concerns have prompted Comelec officials to transfer the voting in at least 40 polling precincts in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf bandits are still holding 18 hostages, including a US Christian missionary couple.

Heavy flooding caused by five days of continuous rains is also expected to hamper the conduct of the plebiscite in the entire Sibugay Valley on the Zamboanga peninsula.

Lawyer Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec director for Western Mindanao, said the floods had displaced villages in at least five towns in Zamboanga del Sur.

Flores said public schools, which would be used as polling places, were crowded with evacuees.

"All systems go, except for the flooded areas," she told the INQUIRER.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said soldiers had been deployed in potential trouble spots to prevent disruptions in the plebiscite.

"We're being prudent by anticipating possible disruptions," Adan said.

Many fear Misuari's allies and supporters, especially former MNLF guerrillas, might try to violently stop the plebiscite in some areas. ***Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Ayan C. Mellejor, Anthony S. Allada, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Alexander M. Young, Lullie A. Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP and AFP***

'One-way bet' off as peso rallies to ₱51 to dollar

(From page A1)

was recovering steadily, Buenaventura said.

"I think people have realized that the projections were not correct and so the tide had been reversed," he said.

Traders agreed that the bet was now in favor of the peso, with the P50-to-a-dollar target likely to be hit even sooner than year's end. At least three traders said the peso can rebound to P50 within the month.

They added, however, that the market was spooked by what they called "harassment" from the BSP following the publication of the identities of three foreign and six local banks found to have violated foreign exchange regulations of the central bank.

On top of the BSP announcement, the specter of currency controls also alarmed the market, traders said.

The peso closed at 51.85 to the dollar on Friday from the previous 53.0 after the central bank said on Thursday it would raise banks' reserve requirements by another two percentage points to mop up excess liquidity and prevent further speculative attacks against the peso.

"The peso should remain stable in the coming weeks at current levels if not better," Buenaventura said.

Dollar inflows

Yesterday, the peso opened weaker at P51.95 versus last Friday's close of P51.85.

However, dollar inflows from exporters, overseas contract workers, and portfolio investments pushed the peso up to P51 during afternoon trade and accounted for the bulk of the $124 million in transactions. A slight correction brought the peso down by 21 centavos toward the end of trading, a trader explained.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. noted that dollar requirements to finance imports had been satisfied and overseas remittances were starting to come in.

Buenaventura said the peso's strong recovery was the result of a combination of measures that the central bank as well as the Department of Finance implemented in the last three weeks.

Traders stressed, however, that the publication of the identities of the nine banks and "the fear generated by that move" were the biggest factors in the peso's recovery.

Standard Chartered Bank Treasurer Michael Aguilar estimated overseas workers remittances would hit at least $1 billion in the fourth quarter. He said this would easily prop up the local currency to P50.

Jaime Panganiban, executive vice president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said that the problems with confidence and liquidity were two of the factors that had caused the peso's decline.

"Once these problems were addressed, there's no reason for the peso not to hit P50 a year from now or even much sooner than that," said the RCBC executive.

More competitive

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the peso could even improve to P49 to $1 this year. But he also pointed out that a weaker peso made the country's exports more competitive than the products of economies like those of Taiwan.

"On fear that the BSP really means business, banks started to unload their dollars and this led to the remarkable recovery of the peso," said a trader from a foreign bank.

Buenaventura gave assurances that the peso's direction "will always be determined by the market." He said the recovery to P51 yesterday was a rate "reflective of our economic fundamentals."

The peso has been on the downtrend since March and hit a six-month low of P54.70 to the dollar on July 18 due to poor economic fundamentals and other domestic concerns.

"The tightening of reserve requirements helped because we've always thought there was excess liquidity," he said.

Asked what the central bank's current level of dollar reserves was, Buenaventura said it was currently at around $14.2-14.5 billion.

Regional support

The stronger regional currencies, especially the yen, further supported the peso, traders said.

The dollar closed at P51.21 on the Philippine Dealing System, and traded between a key level of P51 and P51.95.

Volume fell to $124 million from $151.7 million Friday.

Traders said sellers dominated the currency market on general expectations that the peso would further appreciate.

Philippine shares closed higher on Monday, with bargain hunting pushed further by the stronger peso, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 9.42 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1303.65 after gaining 15.83 points to 1294.23.

The broader All Shares Index, however, declined 14.45 points to 784.62 after sliding 1.48 points Friday to 799.07.

With reports from AP, Reuters

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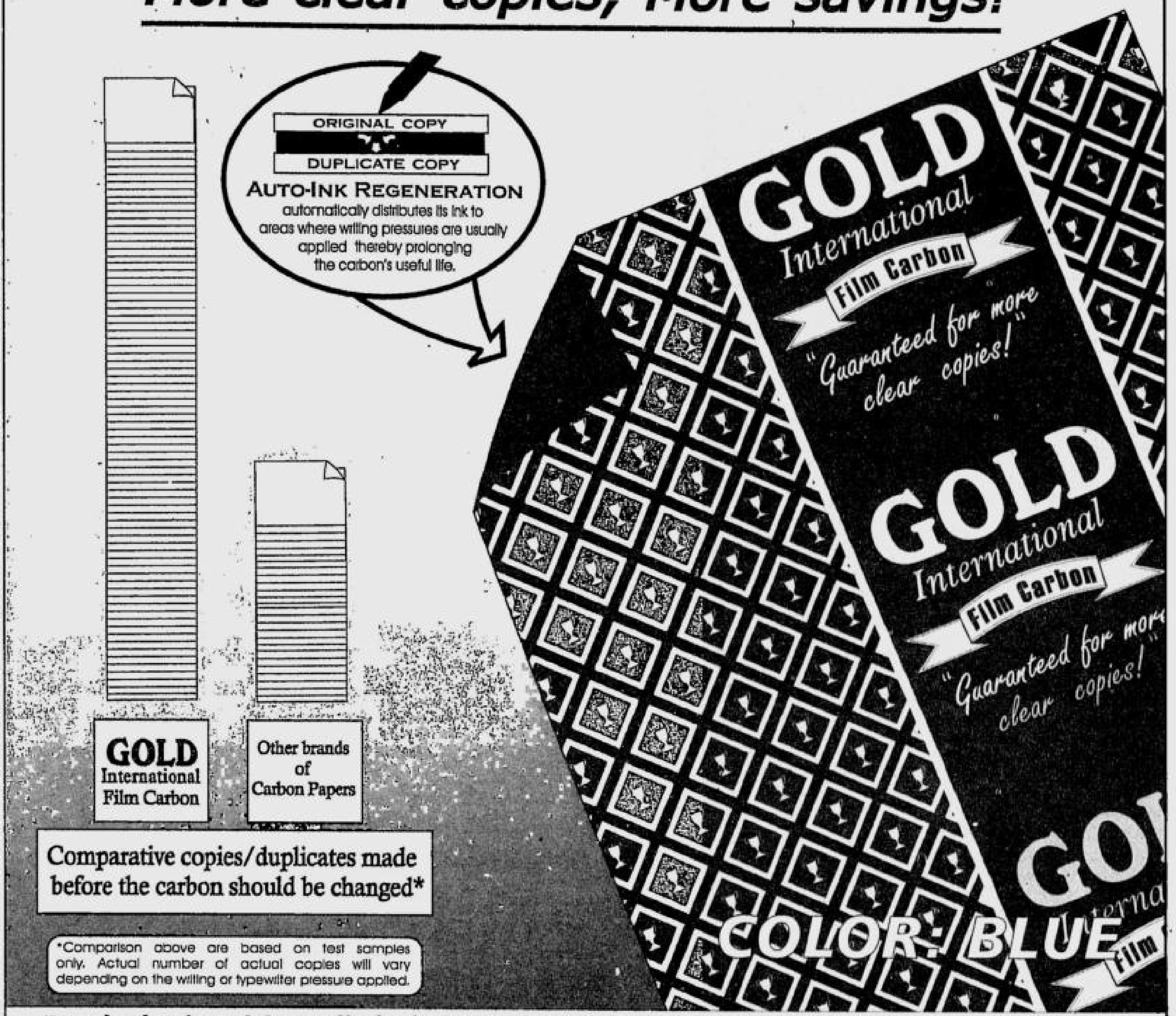

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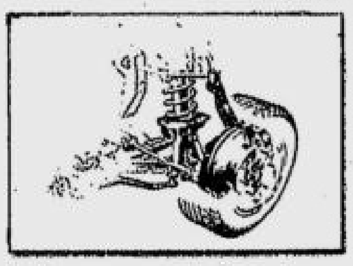

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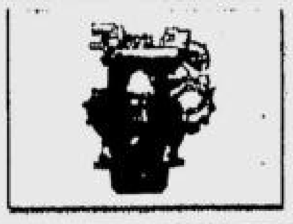

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Cards trip Dolphins, rise to 3rd in NCAA

GAMES THURSDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—JRU vs SBC (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SSC vs CSB (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro

RED-HOT Mapua scorched Philippine Christian University, 74-61, to tighten its grip of third place in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum yesterday.

Sizzling from almost all angles, the Cardinals led throughout the second round opener to seize their fifth win in eight games.

Rookie playmaker Jeffrey Martin devised the Cardinals attack while big men Erwin Sta. Maria, Steve Marucot and sniper Roberto Lagar dealt the killer blows as the Dolphins absorbed their sixth setback against two victories.

That blistering stance climaxed in the second quarter when the Cardinals posted a huge 33-19 advantage over the Dolphins.

Grappling throughout, the Dolphins had a near brush with success as slotman Bernzon Franco single-handedly carried his team in the final quarter.

Franco, one of Osaka Iridology's frontliners in the PBL, accounted for 12 of the Dolphins' last 18 points as they moved close, 66-60, with 1 minute and 8 seconds remaining.

But that was the last of the Dolphins' stopgap effort as 6-foot-7 Gerald Roxas, Martin and Sta. Maria reinstalled order to the Cardinals' camp.

The reed-thin Roxas canned a short jumper while Martin and Sta. Maria calmly sank their freethrows amid a fouling spree in the final minute signaling the end of the one-sided affair.

Martin and Sta. Maria had 13 apiece, Marucot contributed 12 while Lagar escaped with 11 points, including a trey at the start of the payoff period that ignited the Cardinals' fiery windup.

Rookie-sensation Ronjay Enrile sank the marginal freethrows in the last four seconds as Letran edged University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 71-70, in the nightcap. The Knights tied their victims at 4-4.

Scores:

MAPUA 74—Martin 13, Sta. Maria 13, Marucot 12, Lagar 11, Guevarra 8, Silva 6, Roxas 6, Dula 4, Feliciano 1, Maneclang 0, Bangoy 0, Buyco 0.

PCU 61—Franco 23, Asmad 12, Gaspi 9, Soriano 7, Roque 6, Sanz 2, Agahan 2, Gatdula 0, Ilagan 0, Gulyab 0.

Quarters: 26-15, 40-32, 50-44, 74-61

Ferriols MBA best Aug. 6-12

LIVING up to his billing as Negros' top gun, 1998 Most Valuable Player Hubert John Ferriols again led the Slashers to the MBA First Phase championships as they swept their best-of-3 semifinals series against the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems.

Despite missing the services of their Fil-Am center Matt Mitchell, the Gems gave the Slashers a hard time as veterans Peter Naron, Stephen Padilla, Homer Se, Roy Lura and Melvin Taguines joined forces.

But when the going got tough, the 6-foot-4 Ferriols bailed the Slashers out of trouble by delivering the goods and crashing the boards.

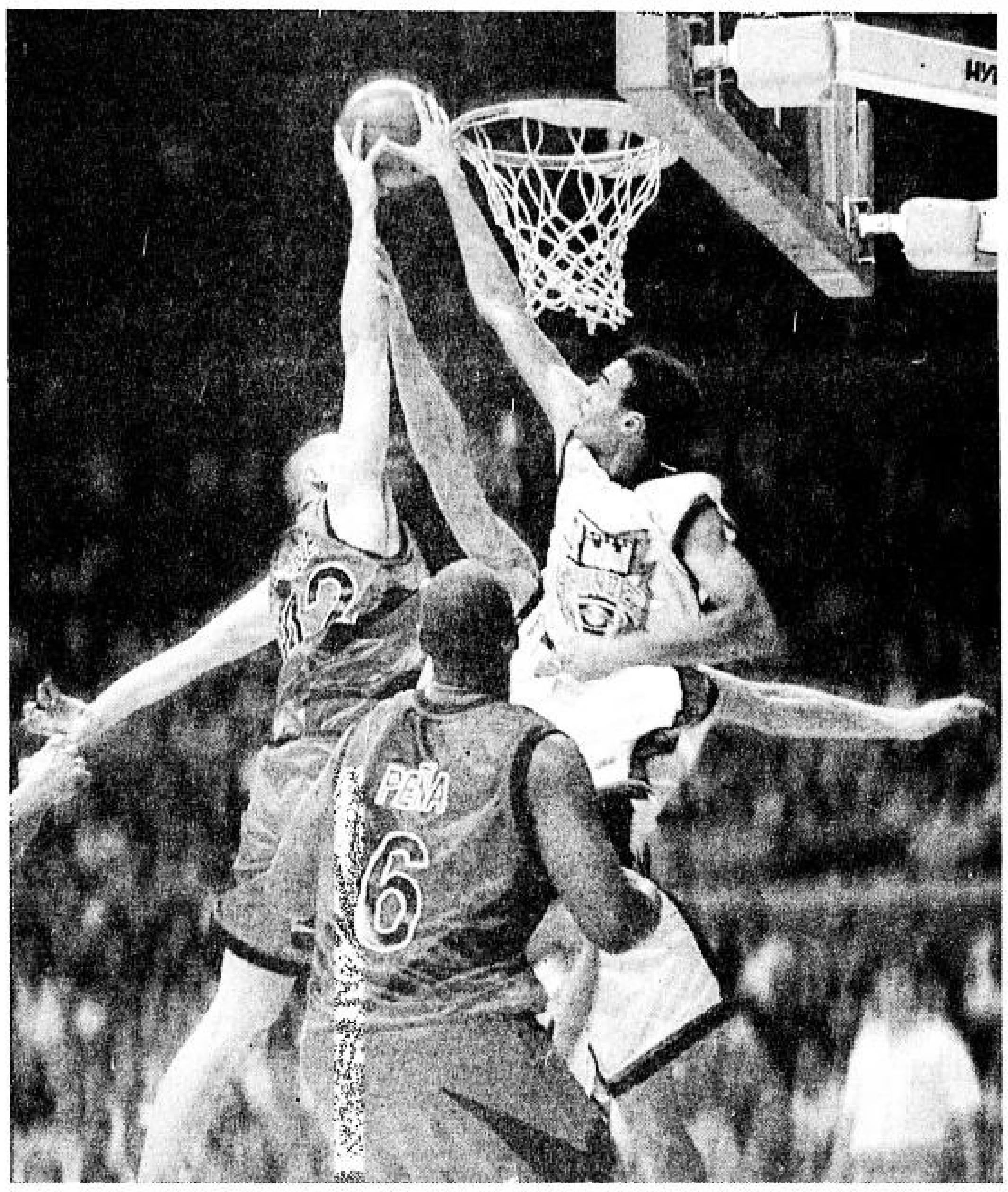
Ferriols defied all the defenses thrown on him by the Gems' big guys in Game One of the just concluded series with his double-double 28 points and 13 rebounds.

And last Sunday during the clincher, Ferriols once more led the Slashers with 19 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal and 1 block as they advanced into the best-of-5 finals.

These performances made Ferriols the MBA Press Corps choice for Hardcourt Hero honors from Aug. 6-12.

"*Ginawa ko lang 'yung alam kong dapat gawin para matulungan ang team na makapasok sa* finals. *Pero kung di ako sinuportahan ng mga* teammates *ko at walang tiwala sa akin sina* coach, *hindi ko rin magagawa ito*," said the soft-spoken Ferriols who's also one of the league's most popular players because of his good looks and fine built.

Ferriols' bested teammate Johnedel Cardel for the award. Other bets were Alex Compton of LBC Batangas Blades and Andok's San Juan Knight's Christian Calaguio and Bruce Dacia.



NOT IN MY TURF ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Tony Lang (right) typifies Red Bull's fiery stand as he rejects a one-hand slam dunk attempt by Danny Seigle of San Miguel Beer in Game One of the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. Helping Lang defend the middle is the partially hidden Mick Pennisi, while Seigle's teammate Dorian Peña gets ready for the rebound. Red Bull won, 80-78.

No-show Kobe irks Chinese

BEIJING—Kobe Bryant called his basketball-playing trip to the Great Wall of China one of the most memorable events of his life, but some Chinese felt otherwise: When traffic and surging crowds prevented the NBA star from showing up for an appearance in the city Sunday afternoon, they got mad.

Fans who had been waiting for hours in blistering temperatures grew agitated when the Los Angeles Lakers guard was more than 1 1-2 hours late for a gig at the Millennium Monument in western Beijing. Some hurled bottles, pushed at barricades and criticized Adidas, the sponsor. *AP*

Delasin shoots 72 for 39th place, pockets ₱.25M

DOROTHY Joy Delasin needed a birdie on the last hole to salvage an even-par 72 and a share of 39th place in the Wendy's Championship for Children won by Wendy Ward in record-breaking fashion on Sunday in New Albany, Ohio.

Delasin's bid for a better finish got stymied by a double-bogey on the 13th which brought her back to even par. She then bogeyed the 17th hole of the New Albany Country Club before making her birdie windup.

Delasin earned $4,985 (about P250,000) in her 20th event in the LPGA, boosting her money winnings to $422,560.

Ward tallied an LPGA-record 21-under-par 195 total after a 68 for her third career victory and first since 1998. She broke the LPGA's previous record for lowest 54-hole winning score of 19-under-par shared by Annika Sorenstam and Pat Bradley.

Sorenstam had a 66 to share second place with Moira Dunn (67) at 18-under 254.

"I was hungry;" said Ward, who jumped from 14th to 11th on the LPGA money list with the $150,000 first-place check. "I was trying to really maintain my composure of playing just a steady round. At the same point, I see these people chasing me from behind. I said, 'I've got to make a statement here.'"

Perry wins Buick Open

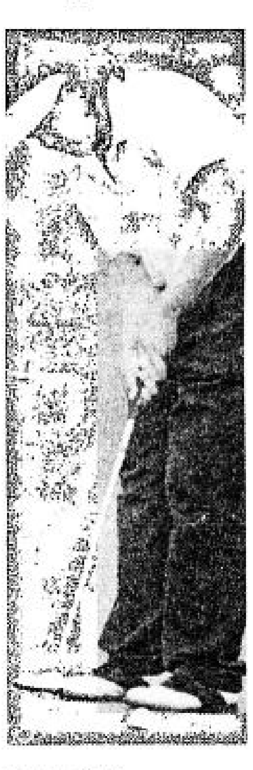
GRAND BLANC, Michigan — Kenny Perry earned his first PGA Tour victory in six years and the fourth of his career with a 3-under-par 69 Sunday at the Buick Open.

Perry's 25-under 263 was two strokes ahead of Chris DiMarco (65) and Jim Furyk (66), who improved their Ryder Cup chances with strong performances.

PGA up for grabs

DULUTH, Georgia —The only question going into the PGA championship last year was not who was going to win, but by how much. Such were the expectations for Tiger Woods, and for good reason.

No one had ever won a major championship by 15 strokes, let alone a U.S. Open. *AP*



DELASIN

When ₱1M is not enough

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A VOUCHER was made yesterday in the amount of P1 million. The voucher was supposed to translate into a P1-million check today. Chair Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission was supposed to have authored both. Recipient of the amount is the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

I raise a glass to that.

The promise was fulfilled.

Or so it seemed.

Last week, I jotted down what PSC Commissioner Richie Garcia said about the golf budget: It would be released on Aug. 13, the day we usually receive the PSC subsidy from Pagcor. Garcia is PSC's man for golf. With Tuason's move yesterday, the promise was fulfilled. Technically, that is, as the NGAP has yet to receive the check. (For the record, though, PSC checks are known to have never bounced.)

One question, though: Why only a million bucks? Why not P1,167.400?

For the record, golf's SEA Games budget is P1,167,400. Breakdown: P858,000 for the team's advance trip to Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 27 and P309,400 for supplies. The advance trip to Kuala Lumpur is necessary to familiarize our players with the nooks and crannies of the golf course in Kuala Lumpur. It was Garcia's idea that we arrive early in Kuala Lumpur and I've raised a glass to that already. As I said, no golfer can score well if he doesn't know the course he is to play. The tournament does not start until Sept. 10 or thereabouts.

Garcia's idea is brilliant because we are the defending champions in the biennial meet. In 1999 in Brunei, we swept the gold medals in men's play. Gold in team play. Gold in individual play. With Garcia's idea, it means we are not taking our defense for granted. Cheers to you, Richie!

But back to my question: Why only a million bucks? Why not P1,167,400 as stipulated in the submitted NGAP budget?

Paki-eksplika lang, Mr. Chairman.

Nat'l age-group triathlon goes to Davao

THE OHM National Age Group Triathlon series' third leg swings to Davao City—Philippine Triathlon's birthplace—on Aug. 19.

Cebu's Abet Biagan and NCR's Sean Lim, who were elevated to the national training pool for winning the first and second legs, respectively, renew their rivalry with NCR's Raul Cuevas threatening to steal the limelight from them.

In the female division, teenagers Natalia Uy, Astrud Valdez and Jowie Fugoso, all from NCR, are top picks with the absence of Cathy Grebert and Cebu's Amale Mendezona, 1-2 finishers in the first two legs.

Football player Noel Garciano, Alexander Sam of Swim Zone Davao and Haidel Hamsin of Fitness Advantage spearhead the 25-strong Davao challenge in this stop supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao, Speedo, Viva Mineral Water, Davao City Government, Davao Traffic Bureau and the Fil-Chinese Firefighters Foundation led by Grand Marshall Santiago Tan.

"Triathlon, a way of communing with nature, could be a big tourism come-on and booster to Davao City as a tourist destination in the South," Mendoza said.

Fitness buffs interested in joining the 750-meter swim, 2-kilometer bike and 10-km run competition may call race director Vic Sai of the Mindanao Mirror (tel. 082-2242848).

After two legs of the series, Biagan leads the race for the 2001 most outstanding male age-group triathlete with 185 points followed by Lim with 160. Cuevas and Laguna's Alvin Alindogan, 1997 Asia's best masters triathlete, have identical 145 points.

Tangalins nip Baguio opponents

BAGUIO CITY—Local standout Andres Tangalin upset favored Daniel Macalino, 8-5, of Manila and elder brother Jimmy Tangalin rocked the charts with an 8-6 reversal against San Beda's Ghande Matunog to advance into the rain-marred Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here at the city claycourts.

Andrew secured a semifinal slot in the boys' 12-under division with Jopy Mamawal, who blanked Akio Sy, 8-0; Christian Canlas, an 8-1 victor over Rodel Navarro; and Paul Papa, who whipped Jay Mamawal, 8-2.

Jimmy moved into the quarterfinals of the junior men's 21-under class with SLU teammates Jan Thomann and Chaya Pascual in the Adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

KUERTEN

Kuerten beats Rafter for title

MASON, Ohio —Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil, playing on 20 minutes rest after finishing his rain-delayed semifinal match, beat Australian Patrick Rafter 6-1, 6-3 on Sunday to win the Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati.

Kuerten looked invigorated rather than fatigued by an extra 50 minutes of tennis before the title match. He beat seventh-seeded Tim Henman of Britain 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (4).

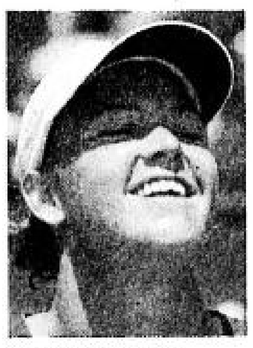
"I could go out and play so much more relaxed," Kuerten said. "I had myself 100 percent ready for the second match.

While Rafter had trouble finding his most effective serve, Kuerten was sharp with is placement, as he has been all week.

"I've never seen him serve that well before," Rafter said. "Everything he did was just phenomenal."

Rafter failed to hold serve three times in the first set. Kuerten beat him the first time with a passing shot, Rafter double-faulted on break point in the second and was out of rhythm throughout the third.

There was just one break in the second set, when Rafter tried to drop a shot just over the net. But Kuerten was able to reach it and flick it out of Rafter's reach. *AP*



DAVENPORT

Davenport ends Seles upset run

MANHATTAN BEACH, California —American Lindsay Davenport ended countrywoman Monica Seles' run of upsets over top-10 players with a 6-3, 7-5 victory in the estyle.com Classic on Sunday.

Struggling with her serve throughout the 67-minute match, Seles double-faulted on Davenport's second match point.

"I'll take the double fault," Davenport said. "I lost to her here one year and had match point in the finals, so I'll surely take that."

Davenport's title completed a three-week swing through her home state during which she lost in the final at Stanford and lost in the semifinals at Carlsbad last week.

"My California trip has definitely been a success," said Davenport, who lives down the freeway in Laguna Beach.

Although she doesn't have a title to show for it, Seles' trip through the same three California tournaments was impressive. She notched wins over No. 1 Martina Hingis (twice), No. 2 Jennifer Capriati and No. 8 Serena Williams, who blew six match points.

Would she have predicted her success over Hingis, Capriati and Williams, whom Seles had never beaten before? *AP*

Sales earns 1st point

BACOLOD CITY—Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales beat local entry Josevito Tapulgo in 39 moves of a Niazovites Sunday to earn his first point in the semifinal round of the P2.2-million Glutaphos-Philippine Chess Grand Prix at the Bilabo Room of Sugarland Hotel in Bacolod City.

Sales of Calamba City, who will be handling white in Monday's Game 2 of the semis, needs only a draw to earn a trip to the finals of this event sponsored by Pascual Laboratories Inc.

But the only remaining local entry in this 21-day competition Tapulgo of Bacolod City vowed to get back to force a playoff.

In the other semifinal encounter, untitled Horizon Villanueva of Iloilo forced a draw against NM Alexander Lupian of St. Tomas, Davao, in 48 moves of a French game.

Gomes rules active chess

NATIONAL Master John Paul Gomez displayed a scintillating preview of his forthcoming stint in international competition by ruling the 3rd National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Open active chess championship held last Sunday at the Egel's Sizzling House, Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Gomez, who is bound to leave for Greece today (Aug. 14) as the country's entry to the World Junior championship, outplayed PNP Major Rommel Tacorda in the last round and emerged unbeaten after seven rounds behind six wins and a draw for a total of 6.5 points to bag the title, a trophy and the P7,000 cash prize.

Candidate master Truman Hernaez and NM Yves Rañola, both from TNSSO-Philippine Navy, scored six points apiece behind Gomez, after winning over Roland Salvador and NM Rolly Martinez, respectively, but Hernaez clinched the runner-up position due to a higher tiebreak points, with each player bringing home P3,000.

Judokas can get 7 golds, says Jaylo

AMID thunderous roars and the sound of bodies dropping like empty sacks to the mat, the country's leading judokas look with confidence as they go through their daily grind at the Paja gym.

Despite delivering the goods not only in the SEA Games but also in other international competitions, the Nationals remain upbeat of their chances come the 21st edition of the biennial event slated from Sept. 8-17 in Malaysia.

"We're going to be in the thick of the fight in no less than seven categories. Given the proper breaks, we can go home with seven gold medals," said Paja head Capt. Rey Jaylo, who earned headlines with his drug-busting feat in the '80s. Jaylo is also the secretary general of the Judo Union of Asia.

The country didn't send a judo team in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games after getting two golds each in the 1995 Chiang Mai and the 1997 Jakarta editions. But it's safe to say that the Philippines is one of the favored nations come September.

Veteran John Baylon, who started donning the country's colors in the 1991 SEA Games in Manila, and Jakarta veteran Roland Diño will spearhead the 10-man roster.

The other members, who all underwent rigid eliminations by the Paja, are: Abraham Pulia, Aristotle Lucero, Melvin Magata, Sidney Schwarzkopf, Nancy Quillotes, Elmarie Malasan, Karen Ann Solomon and Aisa Marie Año.

Enrico Estanislao, a former internationalist, will coach the men's squad, while Chiang Mai veteran Geraldine Barcelon, a practicing dentist with the DILG, will mentor the distaff side.

Barcelon said the technique of the locals has improved tremendously. "Aside from technique, I think the team is determined to stamp its mark in the coming event," said Barcelon, a former teammate of the now semi-retired Benjie McMurray.

Due to the turmoil in Indonesia, Jaylo said the country has the edge over the Indons.

The stocky Jaylo lamented the lack of appreciation for the sport but knows very well a solid showing in Malaysia will boost judo. "If we can make good in the SEA Games, I expect judo to become a byword."

JAYLO (right) giving instructions to his wards. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Mindanao teams top Streetball

MINDANAO squads dominated their Baguio rivals to sweep the seniors and girls divisions at the close of the the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001 over the weekend at the SM Megamall.

Ateneo de Davao's Team Chromium, powered by series MVP Harry Hipolito and Allan Medina, kept their team in the thick of the fight in regulation against the taller Team Artillery to force a 13-all tie.

The Davaoeños then nipped their foes, 5-4, in the second round of the shootout tiebreaker to top the seniors division.

Xavier University's Team St. Kilda, starring the pretty Catrina Pong, battled Team Gazelle to a 10-all standoff in regulation before prevailing, 1-0, in the tiebreaker.

Just like in the Mindanao eliminations, Pong drew the biggest applause from the huge crowd.

The two Jesuit-run school squads advanced to the Asian Adidas Streetball finals on Aug. 26-27 in Hong Kong where St. Kilda will defend the girls' championship.

St. Kilda upset Team Galaxy of NCR, which won the Asian title last year, in the eliminations.

Team Galaxy, led by UST spitfire Irene Cahilig, last year's Asian MVP, lost its first game and forged a three-way tie for first place. But a low quotient relegated them to third place, paving the way for a St. Kilda-Team Gazelle title series.

Team Terbium of Davao nearly became the third Mindanao squad to win an Adidas Streetball title when it led by five points with five minutes left.

But Joseph Evans Casio fired 10 points to turn back Team Terbium, 14-13.

Team Buzzer Beater, lifted by Giovanni Pardillo's 10 points, edged Team Galeno, 16-14, to bag the midgets title.

Team Flash of NCR downed Team Rapid Fire of Baguio, 8-3, behind Rene Macabugal to capture the Streetball on Wheels title.

Officials of Adidas Philippines, which is sponsoring the event for the sixth year, were very happy with the high quality of games and the crowd response.

"Except for one division, every championship game was decided only in the dying minutes. Crowd response was so terrific," said Adidas Philippines managing director John Alonte.

Adidas Philippines sales and marketing director Sonny Nebres described the finals as "the most exciting and festive."

Team Chromium and St. Kilda received P10,000 in cash and P20,000 worth of sports gear from Adidas Philippines, trophies and individual medals. The runners-up took home P5,000 and P10,000 worth of Adidas sports gear, trophies and individual medals.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Buick Open, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, Final Round at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: 21st ABC Championship for Men 2001, Second Round at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (r), 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Asian Basketball Show at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Cincinnati), Men's Final at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 7 p.m. on ESPN

10 YEARS AGO

THE UNITED States struck five gold medals in swimming and seven in wrestling to narrow its gold-medal gap with Cuba in the Pan American Games in Havana. Swimmers Ashley Tappin and Megan Oesting raced to a 1-2 finish in the 100-m freestyle, while Brad Penrith beat Alejandro Puerto of Cuba, 6-4, in the freestyle meet to improve the Americans' gold haul at 113-98.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
New York	68	49	.585	—
Boston	65	51	.560	3
Toronto	55	63	.466	14
Baltimore	49	69	.415	20
Tampa Bay	41	77	.347	28
Central				
Cleveland	65	52	.556	—
Minnesota	64	53	.547	1
Chicago	57	59	.491	7 1/2
Detroit	48	68	.414	16 1/2
Kansas City	48	70	.407	17 1/2
West				
Seattle	85	33	.720	—
Oakland	68	50	.576	17
Anaheim	62	56	.525	23
Texas	52	66	.441	33

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Philadelphia	65	52	.556	—
Atlanta	64	53	.547	1
Florida	59	58	.504	6
New York	54	64	.458	11 1/2
Montreal	49	69	.415	16 1/2
Central				
Chicago	66	50	.569	—
Houston	66	51	.564	1/2
St. Louis	61	55	.526	5
Milwaukee	49	66	.426	16 1/2
Cincinnati	48	68	.414	18
Pittsburgh	45	71	.388	21
West				
Arizona	66	51	.564	—
San Francisco	66	52	.559	1/2
Los Angeles	65	53	.551	1 1/2
San Diego	57	60	.487	9
Colorado	49	68	.419	17

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 3, 12 innings; Boston 12, Baltimore 10; Kansas City 6, Detroit 4; Oakland 4, N.Y. Yankees 2; Anaheim 6, Toronto 5; Seattle 2, Chicago White Sox 1; Cleveland 13, Texas 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Arizona 9, Atlanta 1; St. Louis 4, N.Y. Mets 1; Montreal 5, Milwaukee 0; Colorado 7, Cincinnati 6; Philadelphia 3, Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 7, Chicago Cubs 6; Pittsburgh 7, San Diego 6; Houston 10, Florida 5 AP

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WORLD ATHLETICS

Guerrouj, Zelezny post '3-peats'

EDMONTON, Alberta — Hicham El Guerrouj bowed out of the 1,500 meters with a golden World Championship three-peat Sunday. Jan Zelezny promised his third javelin gold was only the beginning.

The final day of competition ended with the United States losing sole hold on top of the overall medals table for the first time in a decade, with Russia tying the Americans at 19. U.S. athletes won nine gold compared to six for Russia.

Three U.S. relay titles - the men's and women's 4x100s and the men's 4x400 - made all the difference.

Maria Mutola got a triple of her own Sunday, adding the world outdoor title to her indoor and Olympic gold.

El Guerrouj made the most of his last 1,500 race, giving up on ever winning Olympic gold at the distance despite holding the world record and claiming a third straight world title.

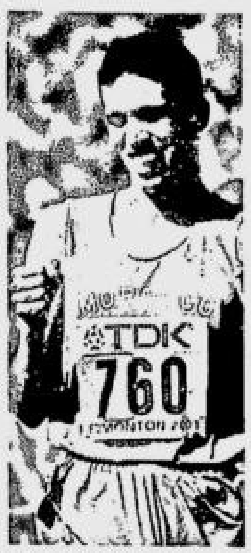
"I wanted the best race of my life, because it was my last 1,500," he said. "It's an incredible day. I can't believe it."

It came easy as can be. He took the lead just over halfway and never looked back, cruising on the final stretch and waving to the crown while Kenya's Bernard Lagat desperately tried to get close.

After his losing efforts in two Olympics that tarnished his golden era as a middle-distance great, a third world title was more than welcome.

"It has been a hard year for me," El Guerrouj said. When he crossed the finish line, he sank to his knees and scrawled an invisible message on the track with his finger.

"I wrote 'Thank you' with my hand to show my appreciation to all of them for believing in me," he said. *AP*



EL GUERROUJ AP

Jones stands out despite rare setback

EDMONTON, Alberta —No world record. No defining figure. And the most compelling race was a grudge match because of a doping controversy.

Yet, despite disappointing crowds and post-Olympic no-shows, some competitions were so enthralling that the Edmonton World Championships will leave a legacy.

The only double gold medalist of the 10-day event was Marion Jones, yet the lasting image of her will be losing her quest for a triple in the 100 meters, beaten by Ukraine's Zhanna Pintusevich-Block.

At 25, Jones joined US hurdler Gail Devers as the winningest woman in World Championship history. She won her first 200 gold and anchored the 4x100 U.S. relay team to victory on Saturday, bringing her career total to five.

She had wanted more. "I came here to walk away with three gold and it didn't happen," Jones said. "I have to deal with that." Her loss to Pintusevich-Block snapped a winning streak in 42 consecutive 100 finals that lasted through almost four seasons. *AP*

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

₱1 BAP fund–Monico

PUENTEVELLA

FEUDING officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines better get their acts together.

Enraged by the continuing snub he has been getting from BAP president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal, House committee on youth and sports chair Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday threatened to slash government assistance to the association to P1.

"They've all been clamoring to get more financial assistance from the national government through the Philippine Sports Commission, yet what does the country get in return," Puentevella told the INQUIRER.

The Bacolod City solon said he would ask the PSC to allot no more than P1 as financial assistance to the BAP, "considering that they have turned their back on the country and embarrassed the flag just because of their feud."

"Worse, we can have them declared persona non grata for deliberately denying our country a sure gold medal in the Southeast Asian Games," Puentevella said.

The Fiba has withdrawn recognition of the BAP after Literal's group clashed with former Fiba president Lito Puyat over BAP leadership.

Fiba nevertheless gave the BAP a last chance that would have had Literal and Puyat agreeing to set aside their differences while allowing a Fiba team to come to the country and intervene in the controversy. This would have allowed the country to field a team in the basketball event of the Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

Rocky Nazareno

Spring snares crown

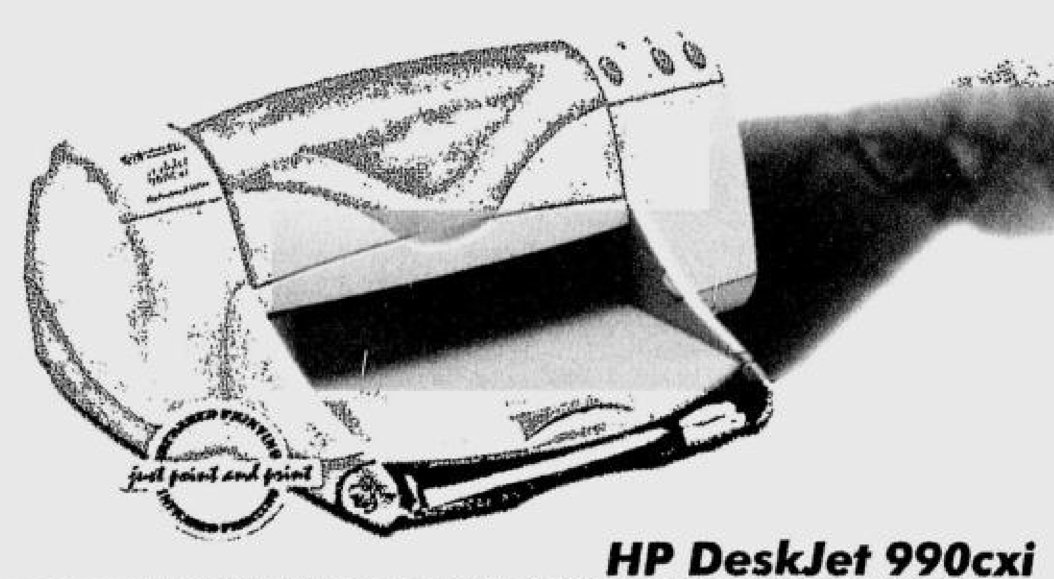
SPRING Cooking Oil unloaded seven points in a one-minute span in the homestretch to turn back Wang's Ball Club, 79-72, and bag the Spiceland-NBC Danny Espiritu Cup basketball crown last Saturday at the Makati Coliseum.

Jun Dural sparked Spring's first ever title win since it began its local cage campaign 10 months ago by pouring in 31 points, mostly in the last quarter when the Cooking Oil experts overcame a 63-42 Wang's lead.

After Rodel Mallari tied the count at 72, Alan de Castro scored underneath and then Dural came up with two free throws and a big 3-pointer to pull Spring away. Wang's conceded the match with still 44 seconds left.

"Our boys displayed big fighting hearts. They deserved to win because they worked hard for it," said Spring team owners, national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his Olympian father, Mariano "Tom" Ong.

Army crushed Hub Net Café, 84-68, in the other match to clinch third place in the series sponsored by Pisong Asin, Spring Margarine, Tanduay Distillery, Red Bull, SMB, Ginebra San Miguel, Purefoods and Alaska and supported by Milo.



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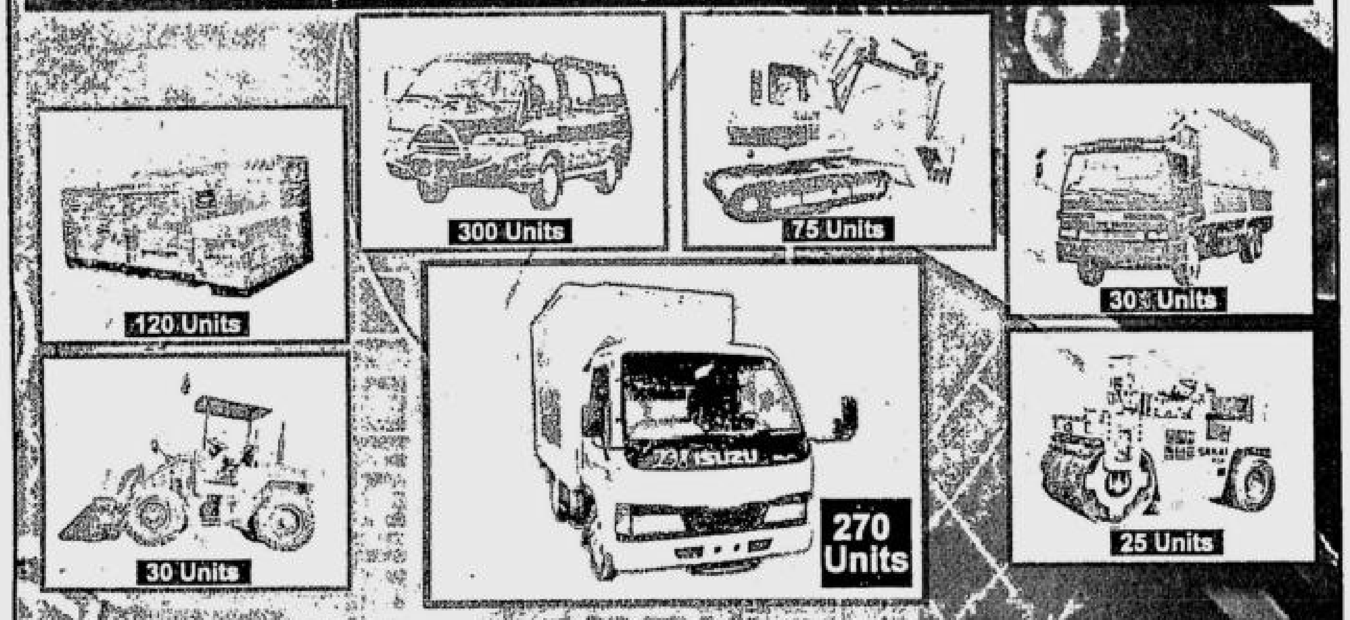

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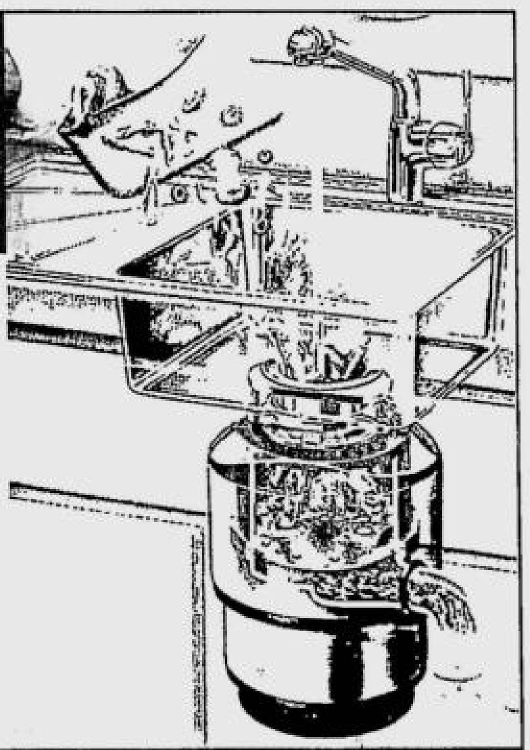

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

2 Koreans nabed for kidnappin; fellow Korean

Victim paid ₱1.2M

By Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of the Central Police District on Sunday arrested two Koreans and a Filipino for the kidnapping of another Korean last month.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director, identified the suspects as Park Seng Ho, 33, and Kim Kwang Sik, 28, both of 24-B Xavierville Subdivision, Quezon City.

The two allegedly)ed Korean businessman Chang Ho Wof 1165 Lola Taya Building, Quezon Avet month. The victim was released in exchr P1,200,000, Tor said.

Police are still loor the third man,

KOREANS/ A20

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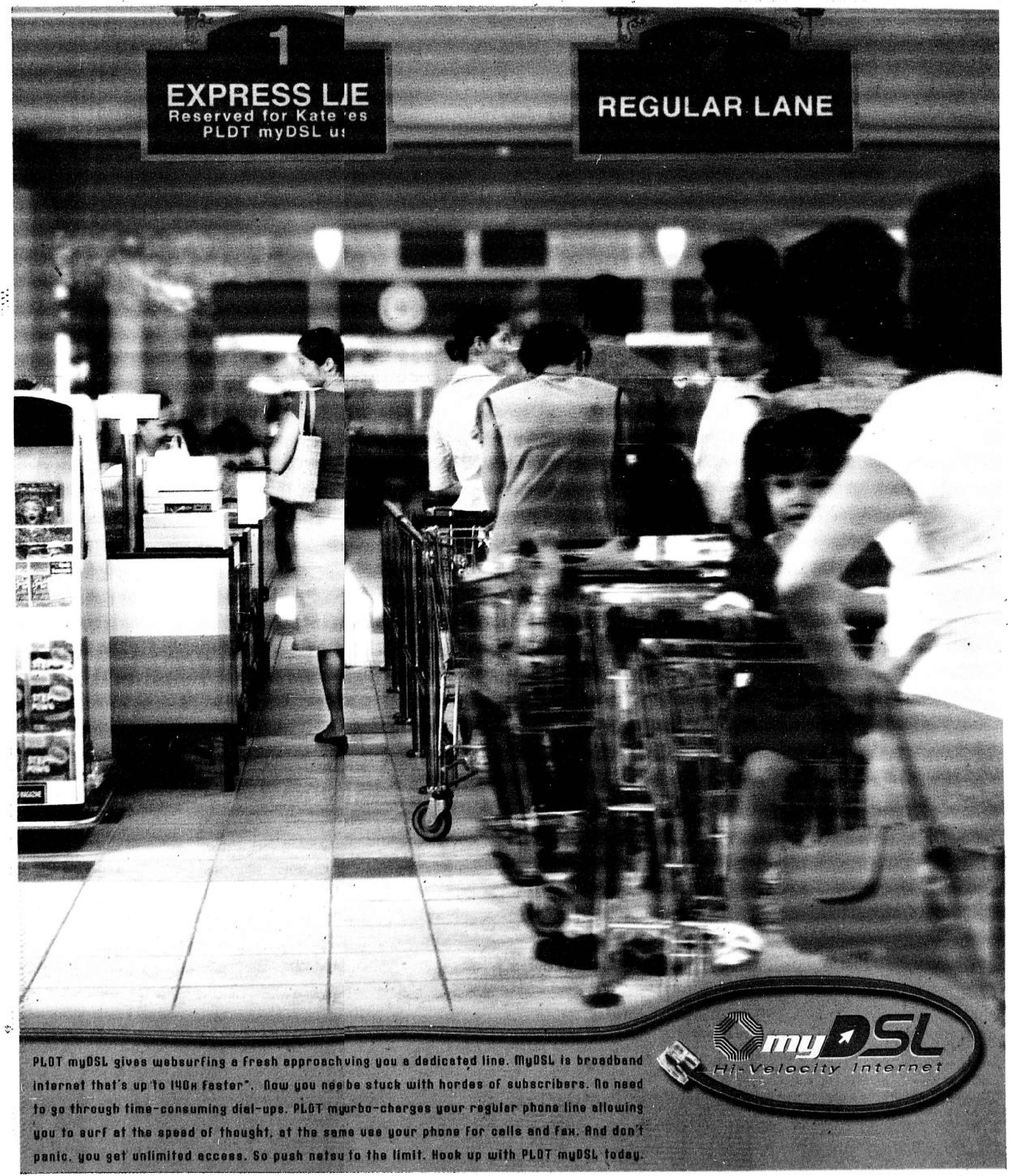

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I've done my best, says BI doctor

THE HEAD doctor of the Bureau of Immigration yesterday lashed out at the foreign detainees who questioned her "qualifications" as a medical professional after a jailed Indian died reportedly of heart failure on Aug. 9.

"That I do not pay any attention to the detainees is a malicious accusation," said Dr. Elsie G. Lobrin, the medical section chief of the immigration bureau.

"Records will show that I diligently monitor and check the conditions of the detainees and report to whoever has direct control and supervision of the detainees," she said in a statement sent to the Inquirer. "All my recommendations are properly forwarded to the highest authority for action and immediate intervention."

She said: "I have not neglected my sworn duty as a medical doctor, much more a public servant. I have done my best in accordance with my ability and capability, with the exception of things beyond my control."

She said the charges leveled against her by Canadian detainee Raymond Jackson and others were "fabricated and unfounded" and were simply meant to malign her.

"I have been the sole medical officer of the immigration bureau since 1984, (serving) under 10 different commissioners, and no incident of inadequate medical attention was ever raised, precisely because I have no shortcomings in (rendering) professional service to all detainees," she said.

Jackson said that Satnam Singh, 34, married and with three children, died of heart failure. Singh had been detained at the BI penitentiary for two months.

Jackson said that on the morning he died, Singh complained of chest pains and asked to be taken to the hospital. Jail guards allegedly asked for money before they would bring Singh to a hospital.

When Singh was not able to produce any money, the guards told him to wait for the next guard shift, Jackson said.

That afternoon, Singh's chest pains became severe and he was taken to the Medical Center on UN Avenue in Manila. Singh died along the way, Jackson said. But Lobrin said that that was not the case.

"On my regular visit to the detention center in Lower Bicutan, Taguig, Singh was in good physical condition," Lobrin said. "At around 1 p.m., Aug. 9, I received an emergency call from the warden informing me that Singh was taken to the Taguig Doctor's Hospital at 9:30 a.m. because of difficulty of breathing and severe chest pains. A chest X-ray was taken and result showed an enlarged heart."

She said the Indian was not admitted to the hospital because it lacked the facilities to care for cardiac patients. She immediately instructed the warden to bring the patient to the Philippine General Hospital.

"But I was informed by the warden that the duty physician did not admit the patient due to non-availability of a room, hence the patient was transferred to the Medical Center Manila where he was declared dead on arrival," Lobrin said.

She said she and the hospital's resident on duty could not determine the cause of death because Singh's nearest relative refused an autopsy.

Electrician stabbed dead by neighbor

BY JEROME ANING

AN ELECTRICIAN yesterday was stabbed to death in a scuffle with a neighbor who scolded his nephew in Tondo, Manila.

Electrician Miguel Galang, 48, of 832 Cabesas St., Tondo, and his neighbor Cesar Ludangco, 28, both suffered stab wounds after they grappled for possession of a kitchen knife, police said.

The two were brought to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz, where Galang was pronounced dead on arrival.

PO3 Rodelio Lingcong said a drunken Galang, who was armed with a handgun, went to Ludangco's house about 12:15 a.m. yesterday to confront him after Galang's nephew related to him that Ludangco had scolded him severely.

Police said Galang threatened to shoot at Ludangco's house if he would not be admitted inside.

The extended families of both Galang and Ludangco, police said, lived in the same compound.

Police said Ronald Moscoso, one of the occupants of Ludangco's house, let Galang in. Galang went to Ludangco's room and confronted him, police said.

Police said Ludangco first tried to reason with Galang, but Galang refused to listen and a scuffle ensued.

Galang dropped his gun during the scuffle, police said. The two then grappled for possession of a knife, which was on top of a refrigerator, police said.

Galang managed to stab Ludangco several times before Ludangco wrested the knife from Galang and stabbed him with it.

In another incident, police are looking for the owner of a motor repair shop for allegedly shooting to death a carpenter who confronted him on Sunday in Sampaloc, Manila.

Isagani Hemedez, 37, owner of Isagani Motorshop at 1069 Blumentritt Street, fled after allegedly shooting his neighbor, carpenter Albert Lee, 37.

Lee confronted Hemedez over some matter about 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, said witness Angelito Rodriguez, a welder employee of Hemedez.

Corpus calls Lacson's bluff

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson y Morena gave his nemesis, Col. Victor N. Corpus, chief of military intelligence, a document that would appoint the latter as his attorney-in-fact.

The special power of attorney (SPA) would empower Corpus to check, audit and receive records pertaining to Lacson's alleged accounts with Citibank Hong Kong and withdraw or close those accounts in favor of the Philippine government.

Lacson has maintained he doesn't have any bank accounts in Hong Kong or any other part of the world. But, for reasons only he knew, the beleaguered senator did not include the various banks in the United States and Canada where he, his wife Alice and former President Erap were reported to also have bank deposits.

* * *

Corpus did not sign the Lacson-drafted special power of attorney. First, because Lacson misspelled his family name as Corpuz; second, banks in the US and Canada , where Lacson and his cohorts were reported to have substantial deposits, were not included in the SPA.

The chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) said he was sure the Hong Kong accounts had already been moved by Lacson even before Corpus made the exposé in the INQUIRER.

Lacson, Corpus said, had gone to Hong Kong a day after he was apparently tipped off that some quarters were already inquiring about the supposed accounts.

* * *

Corpus now makes a counter-offer: the good senator should sign another special power of attorney Corpus and his lawyers have drafted.

The Corpus-drafted document is titled "Waiver of rights under bank secrecy laws and special power of attorney."

Here are excerpts of that Corpus-drafted document:

"That I hereby waive unequivocally and unconditionally, any and all rights and protection I may enjoy under any bank secrecy laws in any country in the world including, but not limited to, the Banking Secrecy Laws and/or similar or comparable laws in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and the Philippines. As a consequence of this waiver of rights of banking privacy and secrecy, I hereby constitute and appoint the Republic of the Philippines or any of its designated representatives including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and/or the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the duly appointed representatives of these above mentioned government agencies as my true and lawful attorney-in-fact for me and in my name, place and stead to do any and all of the following acts hereunder enumerated without need to first obtain any prior authorization from any foreign government agency or instrumentality in which any bank deposits/or accounts of mine may appear *(Whew! I'm glad I didn't become a lawyer—RT)*

That I authorize my attorney-in-fact to do any and all of the following acts on my behalf:

1. To open up and inspect all records of any and all accounts **whether current or closed** (underscoring supplied—RT) as follows:

a) Under my name Panfilo Morena Lacson, or

b) in the name of my wife Alice Perio-Lacson, or

c) in joint account with my wife Alice Perio-Lacson, or

d) in the name of my children (Jeric P. Lacson, Panfilo P. Lacson Jr., and Ronald Jay P. Lacson), either solely in their name, or jointly with me or my wife, or

e) jointly with a certain Joseph Ejercito Estrada, or

f) jointly with a certain Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, or

g) jointly with any person/s other than those named above.

2. to make copies and obtain official certified true copies of any and all bank or financial records above mentioned *(all the banks in Hong Kong, Canada and the US where Lacson, Alice, Erap and Loi reportedly have joint or individual deposits—RT)*;

3. to withdraw funds or close all or any aforesaid accounts found;

4. to receive all monies, interests, proceeds and articles relative to these accounts in favor of the Philippine Government;

5. to sign, draw, execute or prepare any and all documents necessary in closing said accounts; and

6. to look into, inquire, and obtain information not only as to the deposits and withdrawals made under said accounts and monthly bank statements, but also to obtain information as to the investment made from these deposits whether under a trust management agreement, market placements, stock purchases, or any financial investments or transactions involving said deposits or proceeds from said deposits agreement with the same bank or with any other bank or investment houses, agencies or entities;

7. any electronic fund transfers involving said accounts whether local or foreign transmission of funds;

8. any movement of these funds, roll-overs, investments, or transactions under these accounts to any person, corporation, business entities, foundations whether for profit or non-profit.

* * *

The Corpus-drafted document is more comprehensive, more complete than the one Lacson proposes that Corpus sign.

It covers even those accounts which have been moved or withdrawn. Corpus contends that Lacson moved or closed the accounts with Citibank Hong Kong.

That's why, he says, Citibank Hong Kong said the accounts he mentioned in his exposé did not exist. "They used to exist," Corpus says.

* * *

Lacson made the first move in drafting a special power of attorney for Corpus to look into his bank accounts and withdraw them.

Now that Corpus has accepted the challenge, albeit in his own terms, there's no reason why Lacson should not sign the Corpus-drafted document.

Unless the good senator was only bluffing.

Malabon dad probed for falsification

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE OMBUDSMAN is investigating a Malabon councilor for allegedly falsifying public documents to keep on the city's payroll his two daughters, who earned a combined monthly salary of nearly P12,000.

Opposition Councilor Edilberto Torres is facing charges of dishonesty, grave misconduct, and falsification of public documents before the Ombudsman.

Complainant Ramoncito Santos, a barangay captain, claimed Torres included his daughters Marian and Maricar in Malabon's plantilla, though records supposedly showed that the girls were in school during the time they were supposed to be at the office.

The INQUIRER could not reach Torres for comment.

Torres allegedly hired Marian on May 24, 1996 as a messenger with a monthly salary of around P5,000.

Santos claimed Marian could not have performed her duties since she was allegedly studying dentistry at the Centro Escolar University from 1996 to 2000.

Maricar, Santos claimed, was hired as a member of her father's legislative staff on Feb. 16, 1995 with a monthly salary of P6,585. Santos said that the daughter was actually attending classes in legal management at the University of Santo Tomas at that time.

Santos claimed that Torres doctored the daily time records of his daughters to make it appear they were in the municipal hall during office hours.

Debutante's brod faces homicide charge for killing party guest

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A DEBUTANTE'S brother is facing a homicide charge for the killing of one of the guests in her birthday party in Mandaluyong City early Sunday morning.

Michael Angelo Cabra, 20, was accused of stabbing to death Lawrence Beltran, 20, of Blumentritt Street, Barangay Old Zaniga, Mandaluyong.

Cabra, the brother of birthday girl Mary Joy Cabra, is now detained at the Mandaluyong City police station.

According to Senior Insp. Efren Jugo, Mandaluyong police criminal investigation division chief, Cabra was identified by party guest Regie Samoy as the one who stabbed Beltran during a rumble that broke out at the Cabra residence at dawn Sunday.

Police said that as soon as he arrived and saw the other guests in the party, Beltran reportedly commented that there were enemies ("*may kalaban*") in the crowd. Beltran then left. He returned with a knife but he was disarmed and pacified by his friends, police said.

Someone from Cabra's group, however, ran toward Beltran and punched him. A commotion ensued, during which Beltran sustained a fatal stab wound in the stomach.

Samoy, who was earlier identified by Mary Joy as the one who stabbed Beltran, told police that he saw Cabra throwing away a bloodied knife.

The knife was allegedly turned over to Cabra's mother. Police later found the knife in an alley near the comfort room of the Cabra residence. It did not bear blood anymore, Jugo said.

Mary Joy and her father Rodolfo were among the 13 people that police on Sunday accused of various offenses, including grave resistance, serious disobedience to a person of authority and public disturbance.

Winner's backers stage people power at Rizal capitol

BY AGNES E. DONATO

HUNDREDS of supporters of Jovita Rodriguez, who won the election for Rizal vice governor, yesterday stormed the office of former Vice Gov. Teodoro O'Hara to make him step down from the provincial capitol.

The protesters staged the rally in light of the Supreme Court's issuance of a temporary restraining order last July 31 barring Rodriguez from taking over the Office of the Vice Governor.

On July 25, the Commission on Elections issued an en banc resolution annulling the proclamation earlier of O'Hara as winner of the May 14 election.

In a six-page resolution, the Comelec cited mathematical error in the canvassing of ballots in Binangonan town and ordered the proclamation of Rodriguez.

The Comelec decision was based on a review of about 7,000 ballots from at least a hundred precincts in Binangonan. The recount was reportedly conducted after Jose Concepcion of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said on radio that there had been "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote-shaving and –padding) in the province.

In the review, the Comelec found out that the canvassers in the town "erroneously" typed 35,754 votes for O'Hara, instead of the actual 28,754 he garnered.

A similar mistake was reportedly made in encoding the votes earned by Rodriguez, who actually got 18,870 instead of the recorded 18,871.

The canvassers attributed their error to "fatigue, sleepless nights, physical exhaustion." Based on the recount, the Comelec ordered the changing of O'Hara's votes from 216,798 to 209,798 and Rodriquez's from 215,423 to 215,422.

O'Hara, however, petitioned the Supreme Court to issue a TRO, claiming that the proclamation of Rodriguez was illegal because he (O'Hara) had not been informed about the conduct of a recount.

The Supreme Court granted the petition and stopped Rodriguez from occupying the office of the vice governor for an indefinite period.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 14, 2001
19th Week in Ordinary time

1st Reading:	**Dt 31:1-8**
Gospel:	**Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14**

The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father.

What do you think of this? If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them strays, won't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside, and go to look for the stray one? And I tell you: when he finally finds it, he is more pleased about it than about the ninety-nine that did not get lost. It is the same with your Father in heaven: there they don't want even one of these little ones to be lost."

Commentary

Matthew observed that the early church had set very high moral standards for its members, even to the extent that many fell by the wayside. This disturbing fact forms the background for today's reading. In this context Matthew remembered Jesus and his compassion for sinners. Jesus' standards were far different from the ones practiced by so many members of the church. Matthew proposes Jesus' standards as the norms to be followed by the Church. Just as Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of Israel, so now every disciple of Jesus is sent to the lost sheep of the New Israel, the Church. Compassion towards the weaker brothers and sisters in faith is the highest duty of every Christian.

Father in heaven, we are often hard in our judgment of others. Teach us the wisdom of knowing that only compassion can heal the wounds of sin and division.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—To appreciate treachery, two conditions must be present, to wit: (1) the employment of means of execution that give the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (2) the means of execution were deliberately or consciously adopted. The settled rule is that treachery cannot be presumed but must be proved by clear and convincing evidence or as conclusively as the killing itself. In the case at bar, although the fact of death and the identity of the victim and the identity of the perpetrators were established, there is not proof at all on how the killing was done. Thus, absent any particulars as to the manner in which the aggression was commenced or how the act which resulted in the death of the victim unfolded, treachery cannot be appreciated. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Oliva, G.R. No. 106826, January 18, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

NOT WESTIN'S EMPLOYEE. The woman identified as Penelope Nicole Belone (above) in a photo in this section yesterday is not a receptionist of the Westin Philippine Plaza, according to Westin's public relations manager Rica Baello-Peñalosa. Hotel records do not list any person under that name, except for a Penelope with a different surname, Peñalosa said. "This person was only a temporary staff assignment by the hotel agency and her contract expired in April 2001," she said. On Sunday, police said Belone, who was identified as a Westin receptionist, and Marcus Pangilinan were arrested for allegedly selling 300 capsules of the drug called Ecstasy in Malate, Manila.

Kidnappers hold victim in septic tank

A DISMISSED police officer and four other suspects have been arrested after they kidnapped a businessman's son and kept him in a septic tank, authorities said yesterday.

Manila student student Nino Lorenzo Tobiano, 19, escaped from the empty tank seven days after his abduction and directed police to the gang's hideout in the northern Philippines province of Tarlac last weekend, said Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto.

Gang leader Rodolfo Magleo, a dismissed police inspector, and four other people were arrested at the hideout, Gualberto said.

He said Magleo and his gang had threatened to behead the young man unless his father delivered a P53-million ransom. The family agreed to pay, but the captive escaped before the money was delivered.

"We are working on eight other suspects whom we believe also took part in Tobiano's kidnapping and we expect to account for them in due time," Gualberto said.

The group was also believed to be behind a rash of kidnappings of Chinese-Filipinos in 1997 and could also be engaged in drug trafficking and gunrunning, Gualberto said.

AFP

2 Koreans nabbed . . .

(From page A19)

Marcelino T. Ramos, 37, a cashier and a resident of 18-D Isarog Street in La Loma, Quezon City, Tor said.

He said the three suspects abducted Woo about 7 p.m. on July 1, just as he came out of a restaurant on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

The culprits dragged Woo into a car and took him to a safehouse in Tagaytay City, Tor said.

The suspects later brought back Woo to Manila and forced him to withdraw the P1,200,000 in ransom from a MetroBank branch on Mother Ignacia, also in Quezon City, Tor added.

After they got the ransom, the culprits released the victim.

Woo then reported his ordeal to CPD investigators in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Tor said he ordered the district intelligence unit under Insp. Anthony Rodolfo to follow up the case and arrest the kidnappers.

At about 11 p.m. Sunday, Rodolfo's men sighted Sik and Ho at the corner of West Avenue and Baler Street in Barangay Bungad, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City.

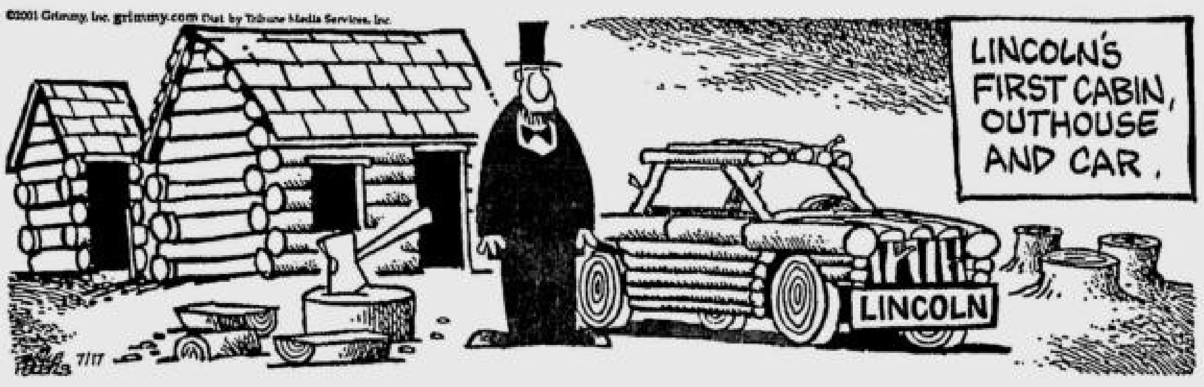
Ho and Ramos were arrested last month but were released after the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office ordered a reinvestigation of the case.

But the chief city prosecutor later decided to pursue the kidnapping case filed against the three men before the Quezon Regional Trial Court branch 81.

The court issued warrants of arrest and recommended no bail for the suspects.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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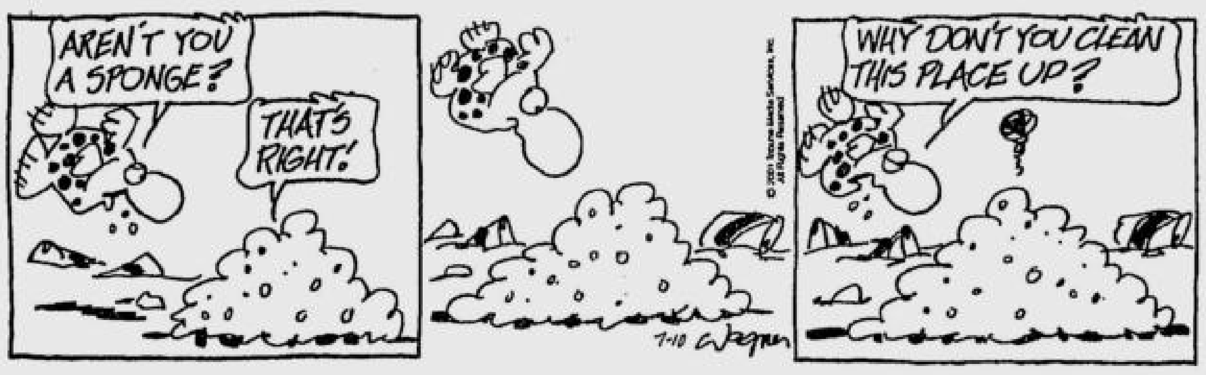
LINCOLN'S FIRST CABIN, OUTHOUSE AND CAR.
LINCOLN
7/17

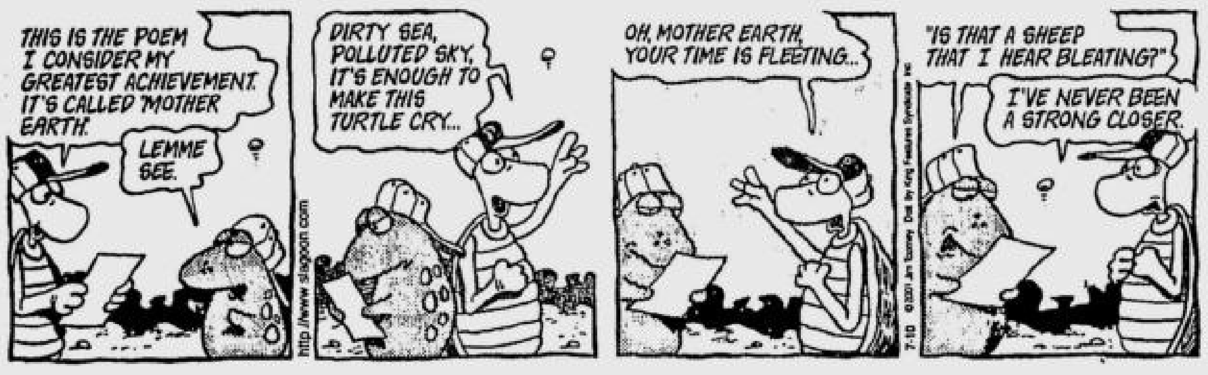
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


AREN'T YOU A SPONGE?
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHY DON'T YOU CLEAN THIS PLACE UP?
7-10 Wagner

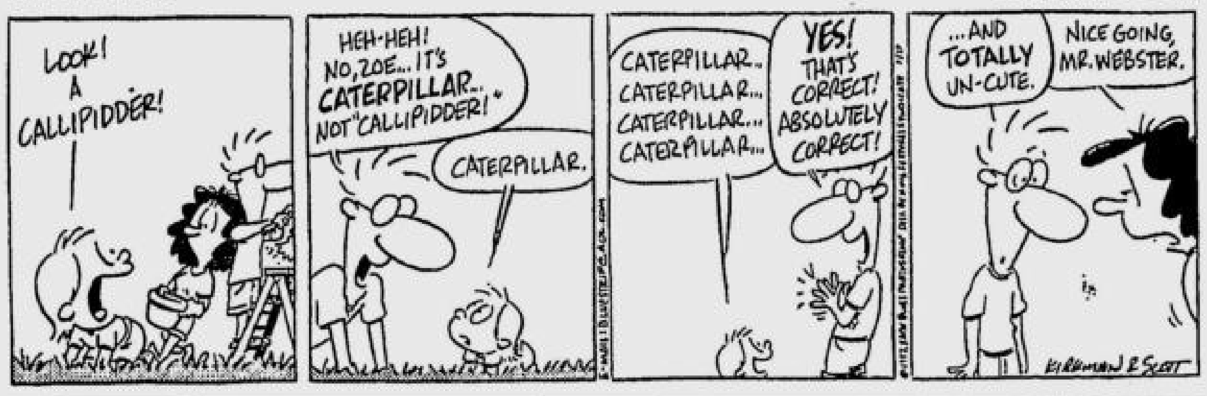
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS IS THE POEM I CONSIDER MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT. IT'S CALLED 'MOTHER EARTH.'
LEMME SEE.
DIRTY SEA, POLLUTED SKY, IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS TURTLE CRY...
OH, MOTHER EARTH, YOUR TIME IS FLEETING...
"IS THAT A SHEEP THAT I HEAR BLEATING?"
I'VE NEVER BEEN A STRONG CLOSER.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-10 ©2001 Jim Toomey Dist. by King Features Syndicate Inc.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LOOK! A CALLIPIDDER!
HEH-HEH! NO, ZOE... IT'S CATERPILLAR... NOT "CALLIPIDDER!"
CATERPILLAR.
CATERPILLAR... CATERPILLAR... CATERPILLAR... CATERPILLAR...
YES! THAT'S CORRECT! ABSOLUTELY CORRECT!
...AND TOTALLY UN-CUTE.
NICE GOING, MR. WEBSTER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Magic Johnson, Steve Martin, Danielle Steel, Halle Berry, Susan Saint James, David Crosby

Happy Birthday: Your entertaining, outgoing nature will be well-received by those who have been admiring you for years. Competitors will not be as easy to deal with, but if you work hard, you will not meet an unbeatable opponent. You are ready to conquer the world this year, so don't even consider slacking off. Your numbers: 5, 14, 22, 34, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to spend time with good friends. Don't be afraid to lean on them for advice. You can learn a great deal if you listen and observe how others handle different circumstances they face.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to be careful not to be talked into spending your money on trivial things. Financial limitations will cause stress that will only add to the personal problems already bothering you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be erratic and hard to pin down today. Your mind will be working so fast that you will find it hard to come up with a solid answer to any question. Take a break and slow down.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have a problem with someone at work who wants to make you look bad. Try not to reveal your inner thoughts, or you may find yourself the topic of conversation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look into joining organizations that will bring you in contact with influential individuals. You need to stand up and let others hear your ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a hard time with peers. It is best not to try to persuade them to do things your way. Being judgmental will lead to a loss of friendship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to enter another learning phase. Your thirst for knowledge needs to be fulfilled. Look into apprenticeships or seminars that will help you achieve more at work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need to quit those bad habits before they make you sick. Look into new ways to obtain better health, such as a regimented diet and routine physical exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be just as difficult to get along with as your partner. Try to create some distance today, both doing your own things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make headway at work if you present your innovative ideas to those in higher positions. You can sort out your differences with a friend if you are both willing to meet halfway.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get into the swing of things. You need an outlet that will get you pumped up and enthusiastic about life. Take a stance if someone you care about is feeling depressed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop using emotional head games on your mate or you can expect your relationship to end. Look into intriguing activities and hobbies, and do your own thing rather than complain.

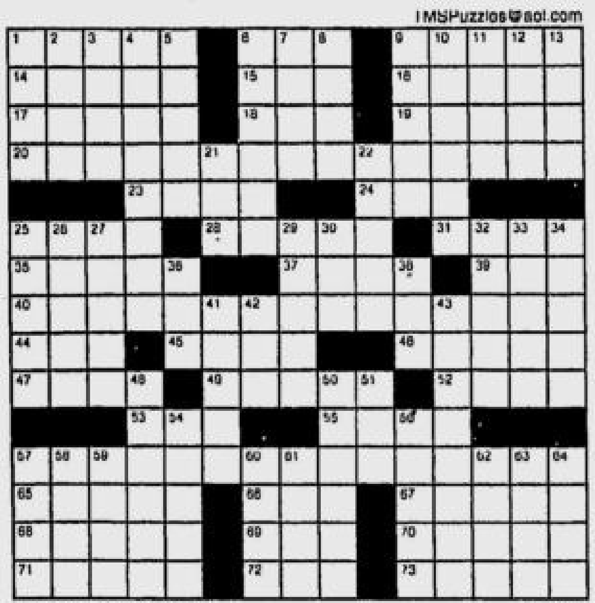
Birthday Baby: You will perplex those who know you with your vast amount of knowledge and your continuous need to juggle many things at one time. Your goal will be to live life to its fullest.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Tense situation
6 Dig a trench
9 Postage
14 Target sighter
15 __ Marie Saint
16 Hunt or Alexander
17 Inexact
18 Flower holder
19 Honshu port
20 Start of Errol Flynn quote
23 Relaxation
24 Haggard heroine
25 College VIP
28 Institute
31 Coarse file
35 Satellite's course
37 Statistical average
39 Greek letter
40 Part 2 of quote
44 UFO crew
45 No great shakes
46 Flash of light
47 Slugger Sammy
49 Yvette's world
52 Dregs
53 Snooze
55 Westernmost of the Aleutian Islands
57 End of quote
65 Salutation
66 Roll of bills
67 Diacritical mark
68 Like Cheerios
69 Cornering pipe
70 Circumvent
71 Worship
72 Get it?
73 Small salamanders

DOWN
1 Surrealist painter Salvador
2 Gasser
3 Mine in Marseilles
4 Region of ancient Greece
5 Stage type
6 Group of seven
7 Profess
8 Woodland trail
9 Unau or ai
10 Poison-detection job
11 Indian nursemaid
12 Create
13 Utter an orison
21 CIA forerunner
22 "The Jetsons" dog
25 Medicinal quantities
26 Muse of poetry
27 Vast chasm
29 Writer Chekhov
30 Actor Schelder
32 Band leader Shaw
33 Glisten
34 Military installations
36 Recipe abbr.
38 Sturdy cup
41 Vigor
42 Mil. entertainers
43 Hallucinatory
48 Stag's horn
50 Drag one's feet
51 Numerical ending
54 Make amends
56 Tennessee tackle
57 Command to Trigger
58 Leader
59 Choir part
60 Meadow mamas
61 Ivy League school
62 Farm implement
63 Cut and splice
64 Cincinnati nine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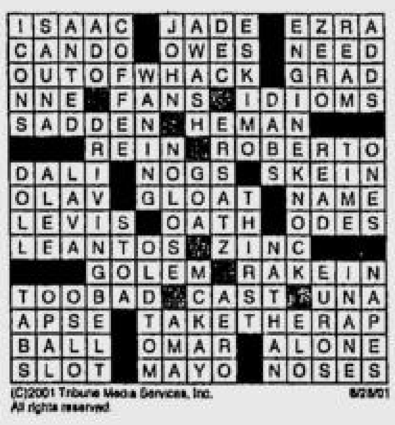
71 72 73

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

6/28/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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			G	O	L	E	M		R	A	K	E	I	N
T	O	O	B	A	D		C	A	S	T		U	N	A
A	P	S	E		T	A	K	E	T	H	E	R	A	P
B	A	L	L		O	M	A	R		A	L	O	N	E
S	L	O	T		M	A	Y	O		N	O	S	E	S

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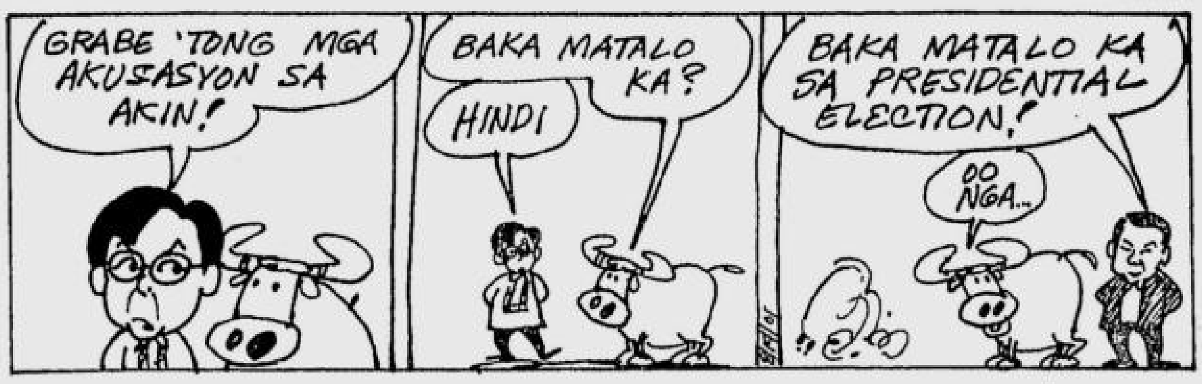
6/28/01

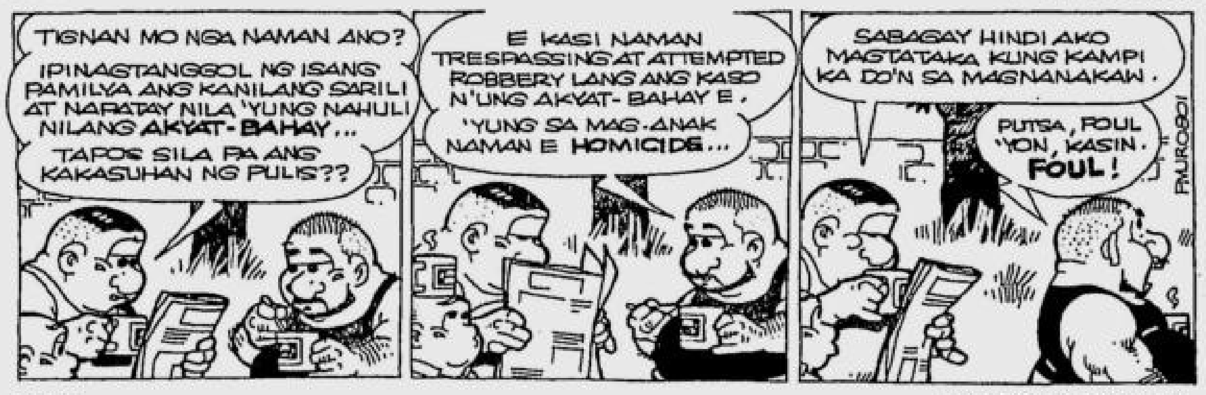
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE 'TONG MGA AKUSASYON SA AKIN!
BAKA MATALO KA?
HINDI
BAKA MATALO KA SA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION!
OO NGA...

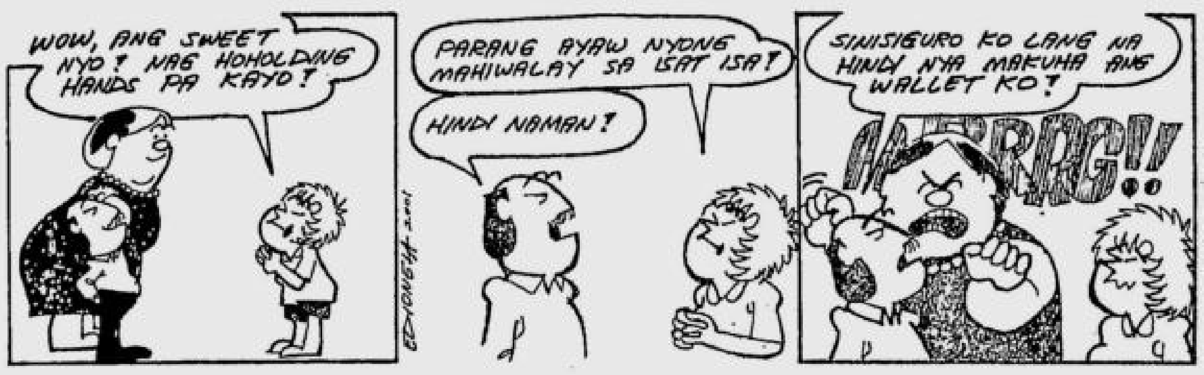
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO?
IPINAGTANGGOL NG ISANG PAMILYA ANG KANILANG SARILI AT NAPATAY NILA 'YUNG NAHULI NILANG AKYAT-BAHAY...
TAPOS SILA PA ANG KAKASUHAN NG PULIS??
E KASI NAMAN TRESPASSING AT ATTEMPTED ROBBERY LANG ANG KASO N'UNG AKYAT-BAHAY E.
'YUNG SA MAG-ANAK NAMAN E HOMICIDE...
SABAGAY HINDI AKO MAGTATAKA KUNG KAMPI KA DO'N SA MAGNANAKAW.
PUTSA, FOUL 'YON, KASIN. FOUL!
PMJR0801

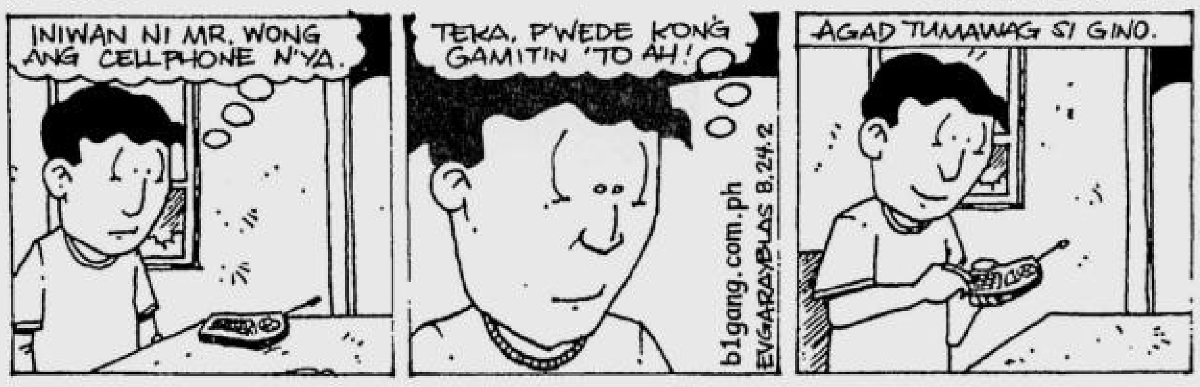
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WOW, ANG SWEET NYO! NAG HOHOLDING HANDS PA KAYO!
PARANG AYAW NYONG MAHIWALAY SA ISAT ISA!
HINDI NAMAN!
SINISIGURO KO LANG NA HINDI NYA MAKUHA ANG WALLET KO!
AARRRG!!
EDIONELA 2001

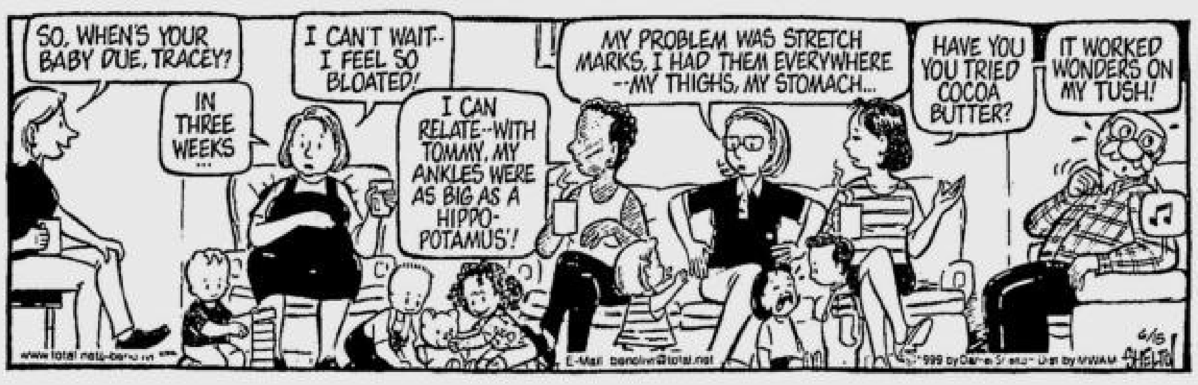
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


INIWAN NI MR. WONG ANG CELLPHONE N'YA.
TEKA, P'WEDE KONG GAMITIN 'TO AH!
AGAD TUMAWAG SI GINO.
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.24.2

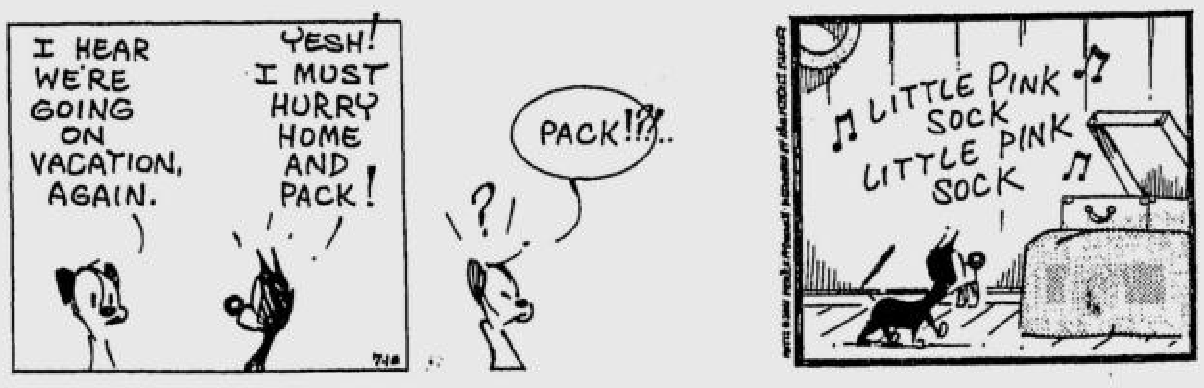
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO, WHEN'S YOUR BABY DUE, TRACEY?
IN THREE WEEKS...
I CAN'T WAIT-- I FEEL SO BLOATED!
I CAN RELATE--WITH TOMMY, MY ANKLES WERE AS BIG AS A HIPPO-POTAMUS!
MY PROBLEM WAS STRETCH MARKS. I HAD THEM EVERYWHERE --MY THIGHS, MY STOMACH...
HAVE YOU YOU TRIED COCOA BUTTER?
IT WORKED WONDERS ON MY TUSH!
SHELTON

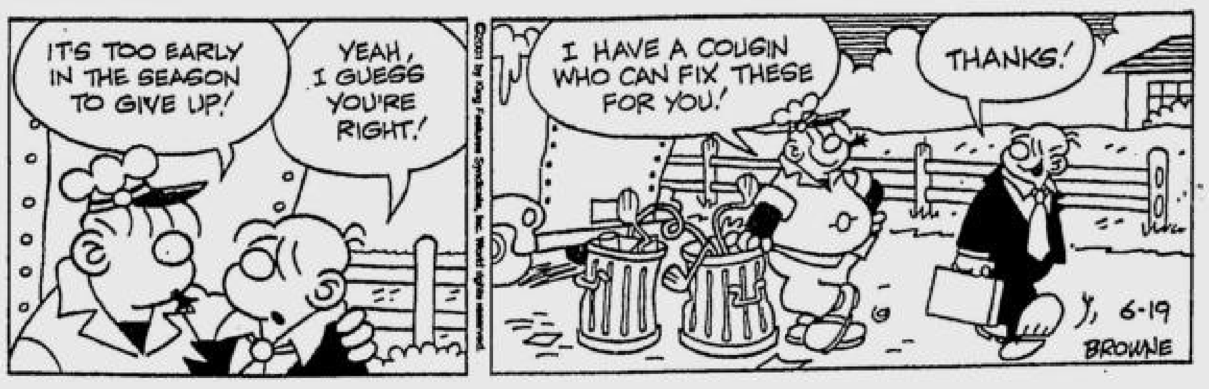
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I HEAR WE'RE GOING ON VACATION, AGAIN.
YESH! I MUST HURRY HOME AND PACK!
?
PACK!?!..
LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
7-18

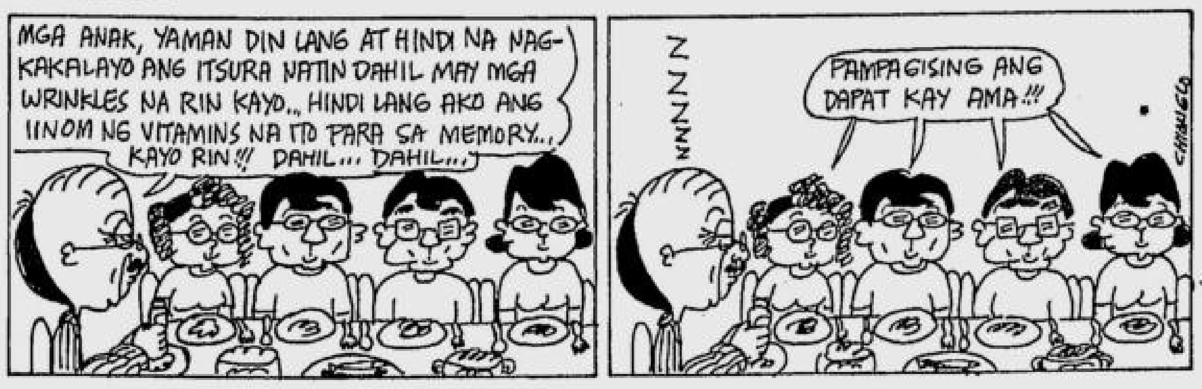
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S TOO EARLY IN THE SEASON TO GIVE UP!
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!
I HAVE A COUSIN WHO CAN FIX THESE FOR YOU!
THANKS!
6-19
BROWNE

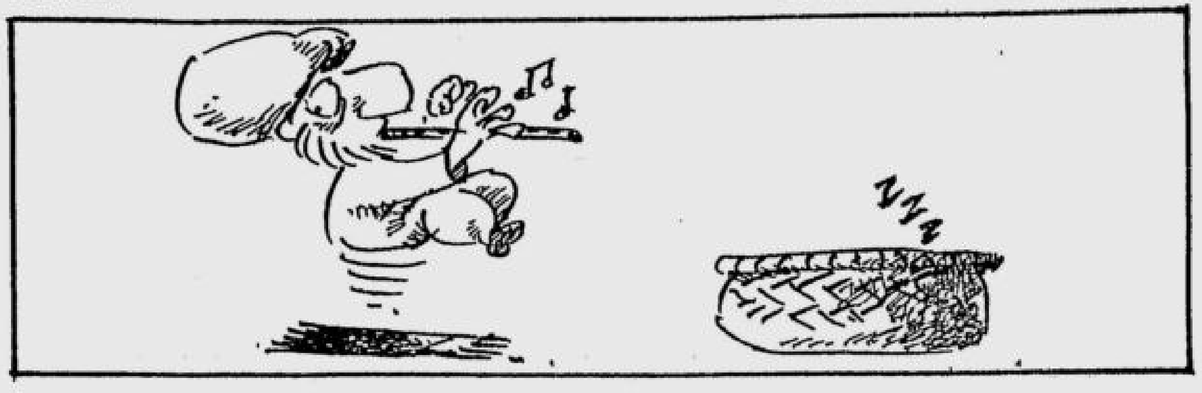
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA ANAK, YAMAN DIN LANG AT HINDI NA NAG-KAKALAYO ANG ITSURA NATIN DAHIL MAY MGA WRINKLES NA RIN KAYO.., HINDI LANG AKO ANG IINOM NG VITAMINS NA ITO PARA SA MEMORY.., KAYO RIN!!! DAHIL... DAHIL...
ZZZZZ
PAMPAGISING ANG DAPAT KAY AMA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



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5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6	TOM CATS
7	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8	MOULIN ROUGE
9	RED DIARIES
10	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9358749

1	TURN ON
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	CATS & DOGS
4	THE ANIMAL
5	RADYO
6	JURASSIC PARK 3
7	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
9	RED DIARIES
10	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
11	SWORD FISH
12	DUDURUGIN KO PATI MO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	THE ANIMAL
5	CATS & DOGS
6	THE ANIMAL
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
9	RADYO
10	TOM CATS
11	RED DIARIES
12	KISS OF THE DRAGON

SM MEGAMALL
6331001 • 6329401

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	THE ANIMAL
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	CATS & DOGS
7	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
8	SWORD FISH
9	RADYO
10	KISS OF THE DRAGON
11	RED DIARIES
12	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RED DIARIES
4	RADYO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THE ANIMAL
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	RADYO
4	RED DIARIES
5	CATS & DOGS
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	SWORD FISH
10	RADYO
11	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
12	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	CATS & DOGS
2	RED DIARIES
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	TURN ON
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	RADYO
8	THE ANIMAL
9	JURASSIC PARK 3
10	MOULIN ROUGE

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820985

1	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RADYO

SM CEBU
2313876

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	CITY OF SINS
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
5	RED DIARIES
6	DRIVEN
7	JURASSIC PARK 3

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
2	CLOSED
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	CITY OF SINS
6	TOM CATS
7	CLOSED
8	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SM PAMPANGA
3128015

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	TOM CATS
4	PARU PARONG LIGAW
5	RED DIARIES
6	RADYO

SM SUCAT
8294075

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RADYO
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	RADYO
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

GLORIETTA 4

1	MOULIN ROUGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE TAO OF STEVE (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CATS & DOGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE ANIMAL in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	JURASSIC PARK 3 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MOULIN ROUGE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE ANIMAL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG.23 TO 25 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE ANIMAL in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MOULIN ROUGE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CATS & DOGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	FINAL FANTASY
2 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
3 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
4 GOLD (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8 [illegible]	RED DIARIES
9 [illegible]	RADYO
10 [illegible]	CATS & DOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3 4
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	RADYO
2	THE ANIMAL
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	THE ANIMAL
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	RED DIARIES

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RED DIARIES
4	RADYO
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7	THE ANIMAL
8	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK 3

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
A	INDECENT BEHAVIOR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	NIGHT JOB
4	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	RED DIARIES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	CATS & DOGS
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
9 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RADYO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	RADYO
2	RED DIARIES
3	RADYO
4 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
5	RED DIARIES
6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7 (DTS)	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
8	
9	

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK
2	RED DIARIES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
6	RADYO
7 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	RED DIARIES
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
5 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RADYO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	RED DIARIES
Lords	RED DIARIES
Jennet	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RESERVE
4	RED DIARIES

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	RED DIARIES
3	THE ANIMAL
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	THE ANIMAL

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	THE ANIMAL
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	RADYO
2	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
3	RADYO
4	THE ANIMAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	THE ANIMAL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CATS & DOGS
2 (DTS)	RADYO
3 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	THE ANIMAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	RADYO
2 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
3 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	CATS & DOGS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
2	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
3	RED DIARIES
4 (DTS)	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	RADYO
2	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
3	ANIMAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	RADYO
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	THE ANIMAL

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	
3	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TRAFFIC
2	CATS & DOGS
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2	RADYO
3	RED DIARIES

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	CATS & DOGS
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	MOULIN ROUGE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	DRIVEN
3	DR. T & THE WOMEN
4 (DTS ES)	CATS & DOGS

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1 THX	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	THE ANIMAL
6	THE ANIMAL
7	RED DIARIES
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
9	RADYO
10	MOULIN ROUGE

ERMITA
536-7808 TO 12

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	CATS & DOGS
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	RADYO
5	RED DIARIES
6	THE ANIMAL
7	KISS OF THE DRAGON

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	THE ANIMAL
3	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	RED DIARIES
6	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
7	CATS & DOGS
8	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RADYO
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	RED DIARIES

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	DRIVEN
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	TOM CATS
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
6	DR. DOLITTLE

SOON TO OPEN

- METRO EAST
- SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
- ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RED DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ANIMAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GATAS / TEMPTATION NIGHT
ODEON	RADYO
ODEON-2	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
ROBEN	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	TRAFFIC / CAST AWAY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
QUEZON-1	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
REMAR	RADYO
REMAR-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-15	RADYO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	UNDER COVER ANGEL
CINEMA-2	SUGAT SA PURI
CINEMA-4	WARAY

'Unang Pinoy' awards deadline

DUE to insistent demand from amateur and professional composers and lyricists who want their works to be included in the "Unang Pinoy Musika Awards," the deadline for submission of entries to the competition has been extended to Aug. 15.

This was announced by Mark Manalang, president of "Unang Pinoy" co-organizer Ultimate Entertainment, Inc. Manalang revealed the contest has attracted more musicians than they have expected.

"Unang Pinoy" is a nationwide search for songs that are inspired by or derived from the traditional and ethnic music of Filipinos. With lyrics that reflect positive Filipino values, the songs must appeal to the youth and should contribute to the young people's appreciation for the Filipino music.

Each entry must be well-crafted, original and must be performed acoustically. The songs' lyrics may be written in any native dialect and should mirror positive Filipino values, qualities and customs.

In addition, no entry should have been previously performed or played in public or entered in the finals of any songwriting contest here or abroad.

Ultimate Entertainment, the pioneer in musical events for TV, is organizing "Unang Pinoy," with Samba-Likhaan, a center for the performing and creative arts in Asia.

Only 12 entries will be selected for the grand finals, slated Sept. 28 at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

Interested parties may contact Ultimate Entertainment at 634-1720 or 634-1731. Or visit the office at Suite 715 Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison st., Mandaluyong City.

Boyet, Sandy in TV drama

REAL-LIFE show biz couple Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong play expectant parents undergoing a family crisis in tonight's episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya," 9:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

The couple reunite with their "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?" costar Charo Santos-Concio, who hosts the TV drama.

Ynez Veneracion also stars in the episode.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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NOW SHOWING

BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
Comedy - Romance
(PG - 13 RT - 1:40)
Starring:
Renee Zellweger
Colin Firth
Hugh Grant

August 9 - Thursday
4:45 PM - Bridget Jone's Diary - Closed
6:55 PM - LRP Foundation / Warner Bros.
9:05 PM - LRP Foundation / Warner Bros.
11:15 PM - Bridget Jone's Diary

PLANET OF THE APES
opens Wednesday Aug. 15

GET a copy of the 4th issue of Pelikula! Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members.

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

After . . .

(From page A24)

Jackie is so in love that she would readily migrate to the US if Kevin would play in the NBA. I chided her: "After **Benjie Paras**, here comes another basketball player in your life, huh?"

She chuckled. "Yup! My heart always gets dribbled!"

Hopefully, Kevin has the winning shot.

* * *

Allow me to share with you some of the questions that readers e-mailed to me. See if my views match yours.

"Why don't **Vic Sotto** and **Dina Bonnevie** just get back together? After they separated, they had other relationships that also failed, so maybe they should try being with each other again."

That's a valid point but I don't think that failed relationships should be the basis for reconciling with an ex-spouse. It's just like settling for something you already discarded just because you can't seem to find what you're looking for. Vic and Dina may have all the necessary ingredients, but at this point they just don't have the recipe to mix it all properly.

"If **Aga Muhlach** and **Charlene Gonzales** can't do the movie 'Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang Dumating,' why don't they just pair Aga and **Janice (de Belen)**?"

That's a good idea but maybe the perfect timing would be after the birth of Aga and Charlene's twins. News about their babies will surely eclipse any big project that involves Aga.

"Why does **KC Concepcion** have reservations when she's asked about her dad Gabby?"

You can't blame KC because Gabby has been an absentee father. She's just being honest. That's a lot better than giving trite show biz answers just for the heck of it. How can you comment on something you don't have vivid memories of?

"Now that Pops Fernandez has a TV drama special, 'Larawan' on GMA-7, does that mean she's leaving ABS-CBN soon?"

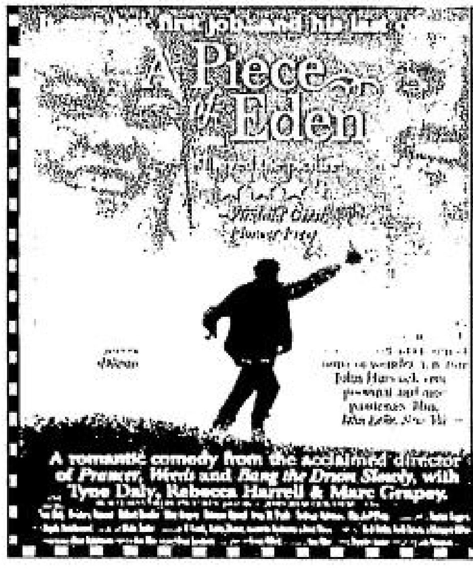
Considering how stiff the network rivalry is, it's only natural that viewers wonder how Pops was able to do a project for GMA 7 when she has a regular show on ABS-CBN, "ASAP." Perhaps Channel 2 allowed Pops to do "Larawan" since it does not collide with "ASAP" and it has a totally different format.

I still have to confirm with Pops, though, if she will renew her contract with ABS-CBN or not. When you have got real talent, it does not really matter what network you are in. Right, Pipay?

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

'FEZ 2 FEZ' AT CHATTERBOX

Sing-along sensations Rey Kilay (left) and Vice are set to conquer the stage of Chatterbox Galleria in a rib-tickling show, "Fez 2 Fez," tonight. The duo will showcase their comic flair and singing talent which have earned for them followers in sing-along bars like The Library and Punchline. Rey apes soul diva Jaya, while Vice has his own brand of comedy that endears him with his audience. For details, call 0917-367-6170.



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS AUG. 15 (Wed.)
Art Film

A romantic comedy from the acclaimed director of Prancer, Weeds and Bang the Drum Slowly, with Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
A JOHN HANCOCK FILM
A Piece of Eden

A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tredici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.

"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer

"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diane Laird, Author

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

KIRSTEN DUNST JAY HERNANDEZ
SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY!
crazy/beautiful

KIRSTEN DUNST AND TEEN MOVIES GROW-UP IN A FILM ABOUT TRUTH, BEAUTY, FREEDOM & LOVE.

Kirsten Dunst, once the talented child star of "Jumanji" and "Interview with a Vampire", showcases her acting prowess in her first serious adult role as she teams up with charismatic newcomer Jay Hernandez in a sexy and provocative teen drama.

In this powerfully emotional touching love story, Nicole Oakley (Kirsten) is a rich, white high school senior rebelling against her father. She meets and falls in love with Carlos Nunez (Jay) a responsible straight-A Latino jock from the wrong side of town. Together they experience the maddening yet healing intensity of first love.

When it's real. When it's right. Risk everything. Break the rules. Be witness to the true beauty of love. CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL OPENS IN MANILA CINEMAS ON AUG. 22.

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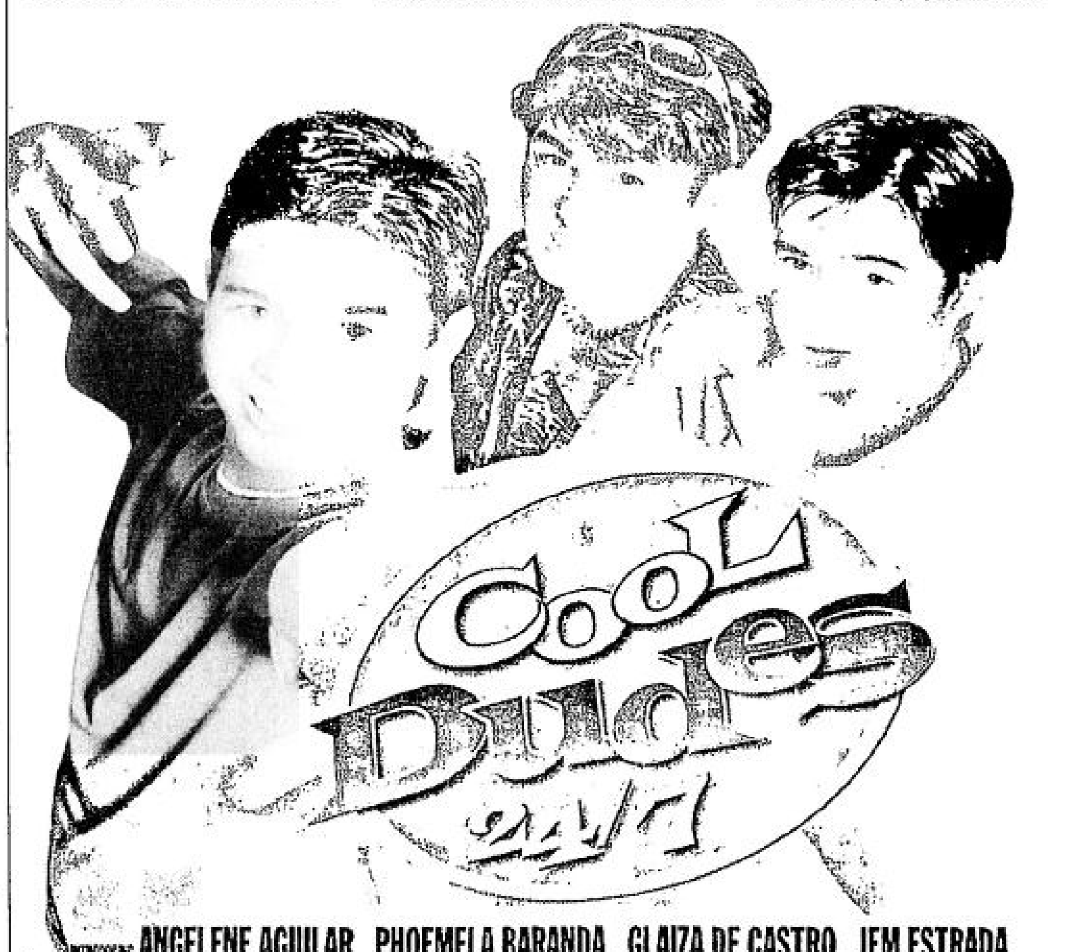

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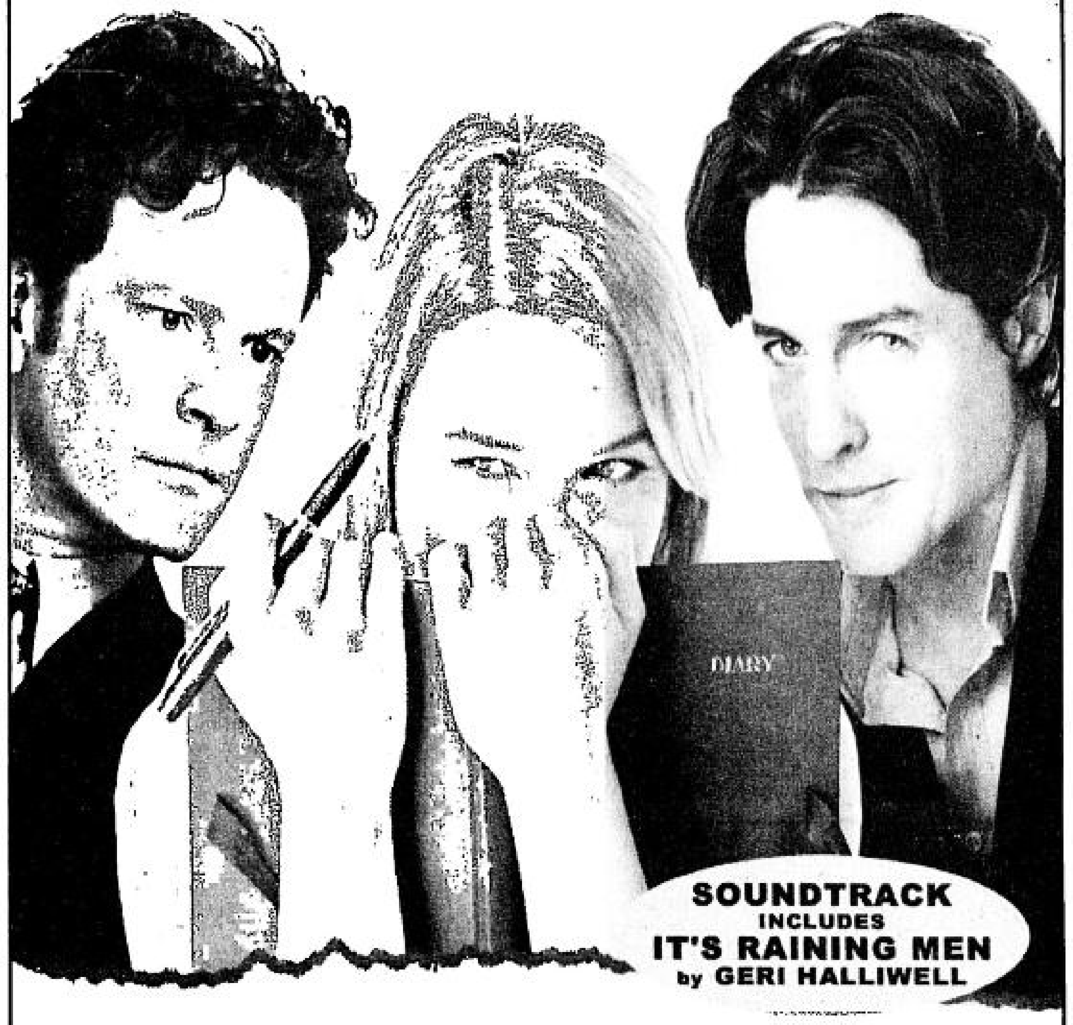
The film contains language which young audiences may find disturbing.
Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.

Renée Zellweger Hugh Grant Colin Firth



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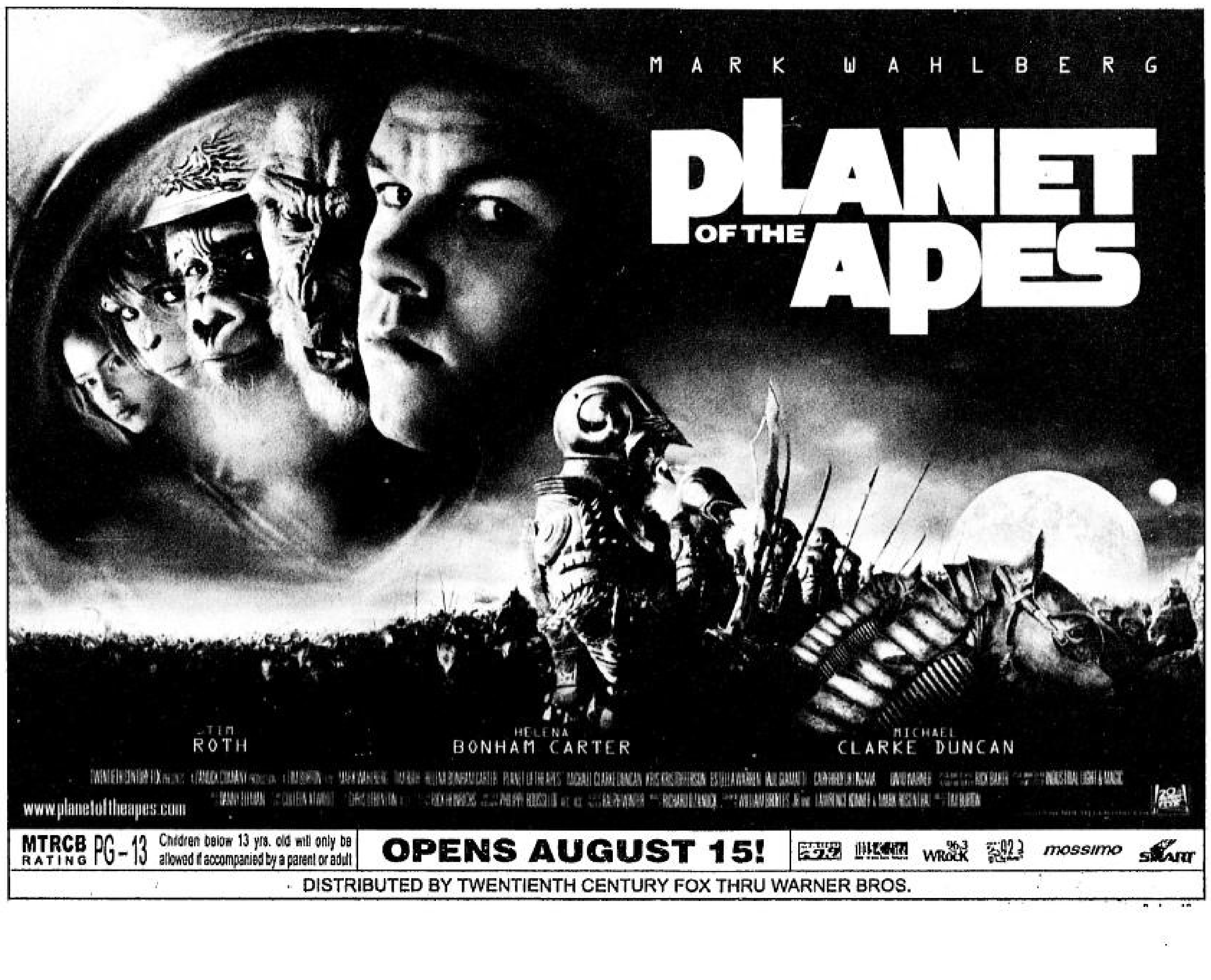
CRAZY BEAUTIFUL - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	CATS & DOGS - GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri. 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Steven Spielberg pays tribute to Stanley Kubrick

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME people may wonder why the film world is making such a big to-do over the new movie, "A.I." Well, to start with, it's **Steven Spielberg**'s first film in years. Second, it's a dream project of the late **Stanley Kubrick**. And third, it's about the exciting but daunting future, a time when robots shall have been programmed to love.—Huh?!

That plot premise is a real lulu for today's viewers, who are tasked by the sci-fi film to wrap their brains around the tough ethnical issues that this "robot that loves" story brings up.

No wonder Kubrick got excited about the premise when he read about it in **Brian Aldirs'** short story, "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long." Its ethnical resonances, if creatively explored, would challenge our dearly-held views on robots, love, and other topics.

Kubrick believes in the story's potential to shake people up so much that he bought its film rights and started conceptualizing the script, which he fully intended to direct after wrapping up work on "Eyes Wide Shut."

Alas, he died before he could see his "A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)" project up on the screen. But the movie didn't die with him: His friend, Spielberg, also appreciated the material's "careful blend of science and humanity," and decided that the story *had* to be told—if not by Kubrick, then by him.

Spielberg recalls, "Kubrick took me into his confidence in the '80s, to tell me this absolutely beautiful story." So, after Kubrick was gone; Spielberg wrote the script and decided to direct the movie himself, as a tribute to his dear friend and colleague.

The movie was particularly difficult to make because its themes were complex and heretofore largely uninvestigated. It isn't easy to vivify new concepts like an artificial being feeling real love, and a human loving an artificial being—and to make them both intellectually and emotionally clear to today's viewers!

Still, Spielberg gave the film everything he had, and advance word has it that he's done himself—and Stanley Kubrick—proud.

What can we expect to see when "A.I." hits local movie screens?

We're in the technologically advanced future, inhabited by couples like **Henry** and **Monica Swinton**, who are subject to severe governmental restrictions.

Their son, diagnosed with a terminal illness, has been cryogenically frozen until a cure for his condition can be found. When Cybertronics Manufacturing turns out robot "children," the Swintons are offered the chance to be parents.

The Swintons welcome their new robot "son" into their home, and they begin to love each other—until the robot ends up questioning his true identity. In search of answers, he sets out on a journey to discover his true place in the world.

Spielberg hopes that today's viewers will empathetically want to go on that journey with him, to arrive at insights on human nature and the nature of love that will be pertinent, not just to the future, but to our present lives as well.

'Adventure Starts Here'

EVERY Wednesday this month at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Adventure Starts Here" takes viewers to unusual locations and delves into exotic experiences.

On Aug. 15, join adventure scientists **Matt Tomaszewski** and **Jo Rush** as they spend a day with **Sharyn Graham** and the hermaphrodite priests of Southern Sulawesi, in the episode titled "Sex and Priests."

Matt also gets age-old navigation tips from the descendants of Bugis pirates.

Anniversary events

THIS MONTH, Monster Radio RX 93.1 has come up with these events to mark its 18th anniversary:

On Aug. 13, the King Babajigalu's Getaway promo will begin. It offers daily cash prizes and the chance for listeners to win an all-expense-paid vacation to a tropical hideaway.

On Aug. 16, RX Onstage presents Moonstar 88 at Cactus Grill in Libis. The band has come up with hits like "Torete" and "Sa Langit."

On Aug. 27 RX 93.1's anniversary party will be held at Hard Rock Café, with top bands and solo artists performing.

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After Benjie Paras, another cager is Jackie Forster's boyfriend

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

A READER from Ateneo de Manila e-mailed me regarding my item on **Dingdong Dantes** and a *colegiala* named China. She said: "In addition to what you wrote about Dingdong, I'd like you to know that the girl he's dating from campus is **Chinna Jocson** and she's a sportscaster for MBA."

Dingdong and she were spotted at the Freestyle concert at the Big Dome last Friday.

So where does that place Antoinette Taus? Is Chinna his favorite "subject" in school and Toni is just part of his "extra-curricular activities?"

* * *

Judy Ann Santos and **Piolo Pascual** were the picture of a lovestruck couple when I chanced upon them at Juday's bar, Kilimanjaro. They were even wearing identical red and denim outfits. What a passion statement!

When teased about **Pops Fernandez**, Piolo turned evasive. We were not on neutral grounds so it is understandable why he felt awkward talking about Pops. I took the cue and asked him about his upcoming movie with Juday. He said: "They changed the title from 'Girl Boxer' to 'Bakit 'Di Totohanin' to go with the trend of using movie theme songs. Most of the time, when the song is a hit, the movie becomes a hit, too."

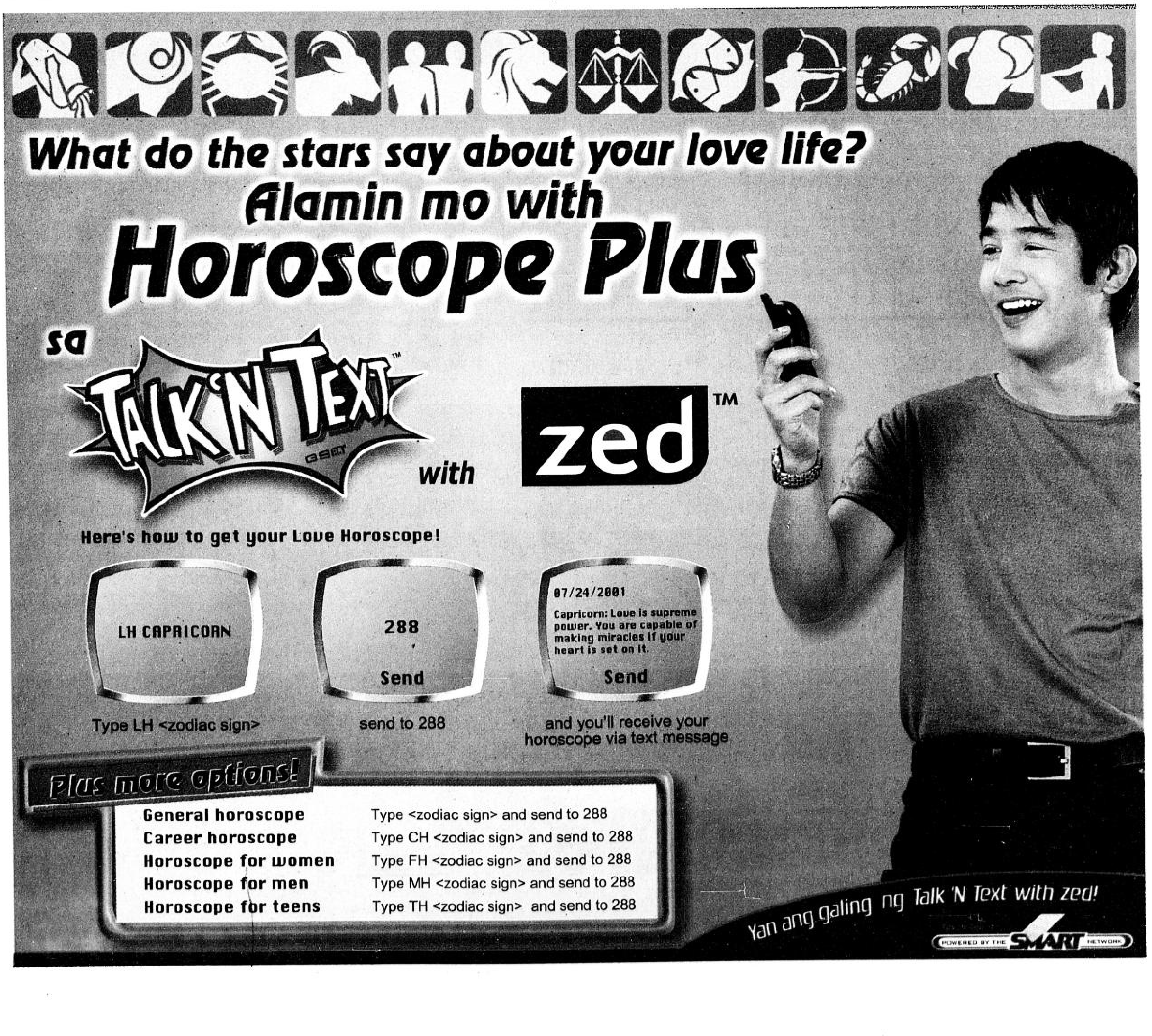
I shot back: "And when the movie is a hit, does it also follow that the lead stars are hit by Cupid's arrow like you and Juday?"

Piolo turned as red as his shirt.

* * *

Jackie Forster has no doubt in her mind and heart that she has finally found true love. Her boyfriend is American cager **Kevin Freeman**, a PBA import. She gushed: "Now that I'm with Kevin I don't get attracted to any other guy anymore. Let's face it, sometimes even when we are already in a relationship, we are tempted to stray. This time I know it's really love because I'm so contended. Even when he's now in the States, we are both secure with the thought that what we have is for keeps."

AFTER/A23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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

Treasury bill yields start to rise

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE YIELDS of treasury bills rose by half a percentage point yesterday as the government was forced to accept the higher bids of banks reeling from the increased reserve requirement set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate went up by 0.437 percentage point to 9.652 percent while the yields of the six-month and one-year debt instruments rose by 0.664 point and by 0.569 point to 11.525 percent and 12.557 percent, respectively.

Following the increase in the treasury bill yields, banks have started to jack up their lending rates.

A finance official pointed out that the prime lending rates of banks have increased to 13.65 percent while lending rates.

Normally, prime lending rates given to big corporate borrowers track the 91-day treasury bill rate. The fact that prime lending rates have increased was already a signal to the government that its borrowing rates have to go up.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government accepted the banks' higher bids this time because these already reflected market-driven rates and were not simply caused by banks trying to jack up the government's borrowing rates.

"I always said that if the bids were reasonable we will accept their bids. And there was substantial volume this time unlike last week when there was huge undersubscription," the treasurer explained. Last week, the government rejected in full all offers for all maturities of treasury bills.

Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola assured that despite yesterday's increase, the bellwether rate should not go back to double-digit levels.

Another member of the auction committee explained that treasury bill yields on the secondary market were already higher by eight basis points for the 91-day, by 60.2 basis points for the 182-day and by 33.6 points for the 354-day.

"I believe rates will trade within this range as the market awaits if local inflation will go down and if the US Fed will bring down interest rates as expected," Edeza said.

While US analysts anticipate another quarter-point cut in short-term interest rate, Edeza said he was not expecting the local central bank to immediately bring down its overnight borrowing rates because of pressures on inflation and the peso.

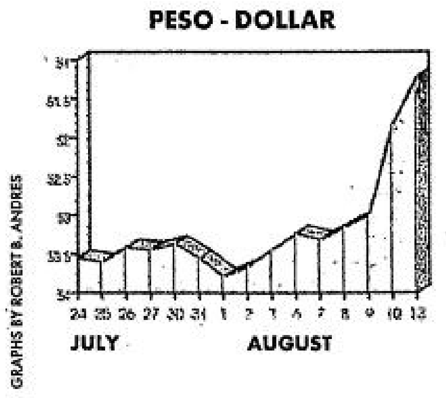
A fixed-income trader pointed out that after the BSP had raised the reserve requirement by another two percentage points last Friday to 20 percent, the liquidity in the market had tightened by another P27 billion.

The current 20-percent reserve requirement forces banks to park 20 centavos for every peso of their loanable funds in the central bank's vaults.

It was only last July 27 when the BSP raised the reserve requirement by two points to siphon off P27.4 billion in excess money from the system.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m., August 13, 2001

Y 121.86 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 121.85 as of 5 p.m., August 13, 2001

GOLD:$274.90/275.40

per ounce Hong Kong, August 13, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 0.7%

SHARES closed higher yesterday, with bargain hunting pushed further by the steady gain of the peso against the dollar, traders said.

The dollar fell to an intraday low of P51 yesterday morning after closing at 51.85 Friday following the central bank's increase of banks liquidity reserve effective Friday.

The peso has strengthened steadily against the dollar since the middle of last week.

"The strength of the peso gave relief to the market. But we are still unable

SHARES/ B2

Vitarich files ₱583-M suit vs US franchise firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE VITARICH poultry group has filed a P582.7-million lawsuit against American franchiser AFC Enterprises and its officers for the undue termination of their franchising agreements for Texas Chicken and Popeye Chicken restaurants.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Vitarich corporate secretary Tadeo Hilario said two Vitarich affiliates—Texas Manok Inc. and Popeyes Manok ATBP Inc.—and a wholly owned subsidiary, Philippines Favorite Chicken Inc., filed last Friday with the Pasig Regional Trial Court their complaint against AFC.

The group asked the Pasig RTC to declare as null and void the termination of the Texas Chicken and Popeyes agreement and to return millions in funds due these companies, on top of P443.73 million in damages claimed by PFCI.

Hilario said AFC and its officers attempted to terminate the Texas Chicken and Popeye Chicken franchising and restaurant development agreements with these companies in violation of an earlier understanding.

In February 2001, Hilario said AFC had agreed in writing to the deferment of the 2001 royalties, the closure of certain local Texas Chicken restaurants as well as the removal of some commitments under the development agreement.

He also noted that AFC had acknowledged in writing that Texas Manok overpaid it $42,375 (P2.16 million) in royalties for the year 2000 and that AFC was supposed to hold such amount in trust for Texas Manok.

Texas Manok and Popeyes Manok were given by AFC the franchise to develop and operate Texas Chicken and Popeye Chicken restaurants while PFCI was tapped as a supplier for both restaurants.

Earlier, Hilario said AFC has also agreed with Popeyes Manok to defer the establishment of Popeyes restaurants in order to look for new investors and to return the $160,000 (P8.16 million) initial payment made by the latter.

"In the meantime, PFCI invested at

VITARICH/ B2

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Job well darn

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN THE minds of non-economists, those who do not know pipsqueak about how our economy is actually doing, times must be bad. As usual, the non-economists are correct!

Based on official unemployment figures, we already have close to 5 million jobless. To think, the figures even underwent medical tests. You know—doctored!

With their own eyes, anyway, non-economists can see factories and shops closing down. For office space, you can get one-year occupancy for nothing. Yes, sir, it's free!

That times are bad, everybody already knows. Except, of course, government economists! They say the economy is doing fine, assuming that nothing is wrong.

* * *

FOR in the minds of government economists, the economy is just fine as long as it stays within this cute administration's growth forecast for the year.

That happens to be 3.2 to 3.8 percent. Remember, this cute administration already brought down its target. But nobody knows if such was done to make its job easier.

Such a low target, anyway, makes ours one of the poorest showings in these parts. Yet, to government economists, everything is fine because everything is just as expected.

So if the government predicts a famine, and we all die with eyes wide open, I can almost see government economists pouring the champagne for, darn it, a job well done!

* * *

NEXT month, based on news reports, government economists are going to figure out something important. No, they do not intend to find ways to make all of us rich.

Actually, the government economists are determined to find out, once and for all, whether or not this cute administration should even keep its already low growth forecast.

In other words, if they can only say just where our economy is heading—whether times are getting bad, worse or worst—then their job is done. Mission is accomplished!

It's just like telling us something we already know. What about actually doing something about the problem, boss? What's that? You say it's not your problem?

* * *

REALLY, if you ask government economists, nothing seems to be wrong! You see, they are sure—oh, so very sure—that this cute administration can still hit the target.

All our government has to do is, well, just make the United States and Japan stage an economic recovery soon somehow! It's only like hoping for a miracle!

In effect, they are saying that if those countries will do just fine, over which we have absolutely no control of, we will also do just fine. It's as simple as that!

Unfortunately, recent reports are saying that the US recovery is nowhere in sight, and Japan is already heading toward a recession. So that's it, we

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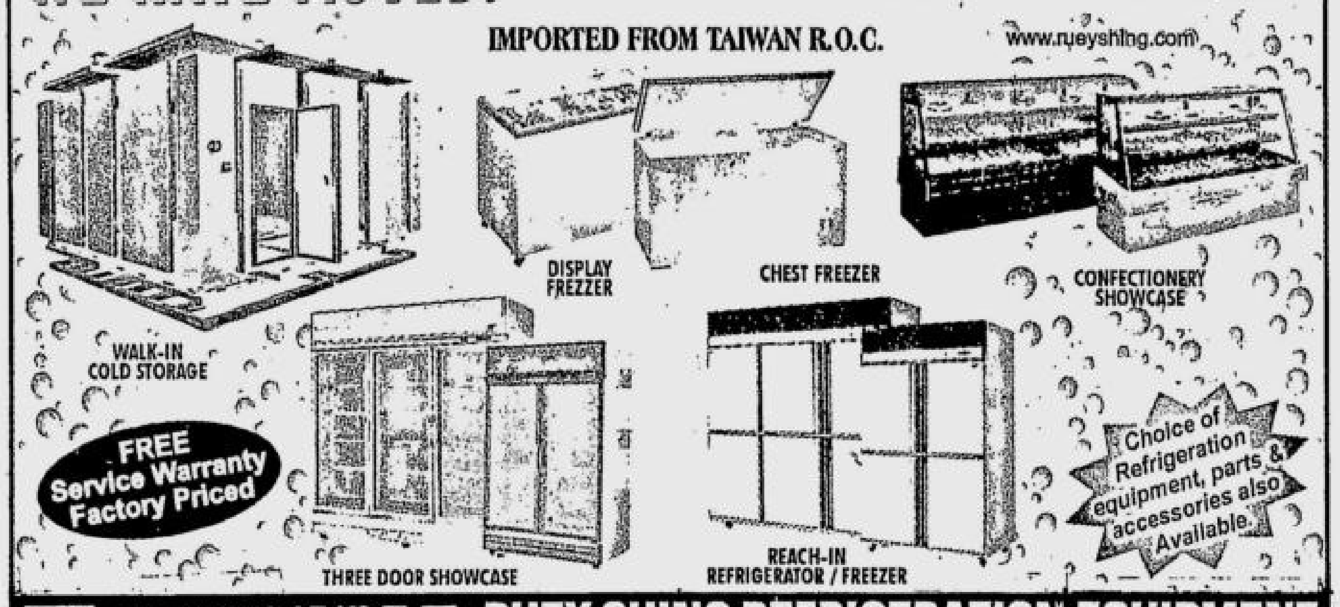
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Shares

(From page B1)

to hold our gains for too long," said Vanessa Lim, fund manager at UCPB Trust.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 9.42 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1303.65 after gaining 15.83 points to 1294.23.

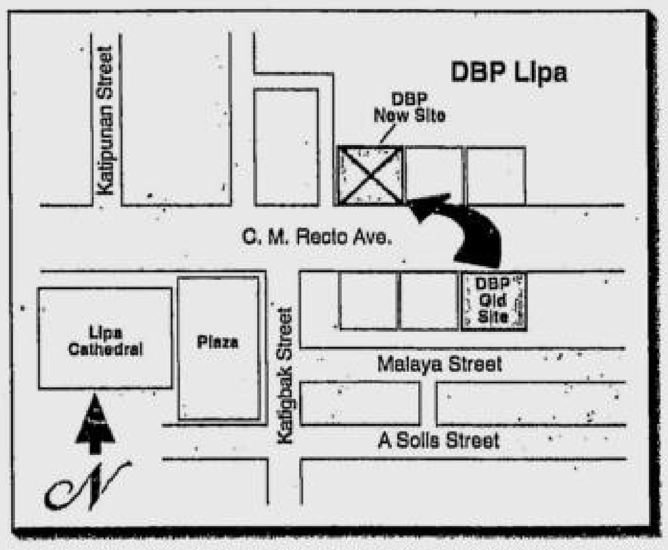
The broader All Shares Index, however, declined 14.45 points to 784.62 after sliding 1.48 points Friday to 799.07.

Gainers beat losers 32 to 25, with 40 issues unchanged.

Globe Telecom led advancers Monday, rising P20 to P640 after its first half results released Friday outperformed the market's consensus estimate. *AP, Reuters*

ALA-E, NGAYON NA ANG LIPAT NAMIN...

...SA TAPAT LANG.



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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, Aug. 13, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	62.5	61.5	62.5	111,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	33	33	30,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	212	209	211	84,520
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	46	46	521,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	2,500
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1570	1570	1530	1530	6,320
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1235	1235	1205	1210	1,930
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	1,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	660	640	640	1,400
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	19,080,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	575	575	570	575	149,370
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	13,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	33	33	32.5	32.5	27,500
Manila Electric Co. B	39	40.5	38.5	38.5	809,500
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	4,062,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	40,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.88	1.96	1.86	1.92	1,800,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	60,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.36	1.2	1.36	498,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	282,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	7,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26	26	26	26	10,000
RFM Corp.	2.38	2.44	2.38	2.4	3,355,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42.5	41.5	41.5	79,600
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	719,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.5	4.8	552,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	733,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	35,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.06	1	1.06	1,989,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	300
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.23	3,100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	2,288,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	840,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	120,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,390,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	29.5	28	29	288,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Ionics Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.88	44,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.72	880,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,890,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	70,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	400,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	390,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.6	0.6	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	5,270,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	600,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37	37	37	37	125,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	660	660	660	660	100
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	27,800
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	13,000,000
PNB Warrants	12	12	12	12	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	24,600,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.8	6,624,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	16,160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	2,273,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
Primex Corp.	2.32	2.42	2.32	2.42	482,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	255,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	16,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.047	0.048	0.035	0.035	79,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	110,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	65,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	2,200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	1,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	760,570	62,502,370.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	108,944,172	228,014,733.00
PRO	28,884,000	43,051,290.00
Mining	155,826,000	3,713,000.00
OIL	1,720,000	87,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	296,134,742	337,368,893.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	536.26	UP 4.21
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,838.64	UP 19.16
PRO	499.92	UP 9.14
Mining	1,237.97	DOWN 3.71
OIL	1.77	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	785.02	DOWN 14.05
Composite	1,303.65	UP 9.42

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 97; NO. OF TRADES: 1,983

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF AUGUST 13, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	1,800,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	2,100,000	1,900,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	770,000	750,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	205,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB 'A'	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB 'A'	400,000	350,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB 'A'	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB 'A'	350,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB 'B'	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	14,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'A'	750,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'B'	900,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB 'A'	160,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB 'B'	170,000	150,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	250,000	
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB 'A'	1,900,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	185,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	265,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,500,000	

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Vitarich

(From page B1)

least P700 million for the infrastructure and support facilities to supply Texas Manok equipment and other goods, as well as to provide land, mall sites, buildings and other improvements for the Texas Chicken restaurants," Hilario said.

Aside from the damages claimed by PFCI, other claims were broken down as follows: $2.15 million (P109.65 million) in royalty fees and allied fund contributions paid by Texas Manok; the $42,375 (P2.16 million) overpaid by Texas Manok and allegedly embezzled by AFC and four of its officers; the $160,000 (P8.16 million) initial payment made by Popeyes Manok, and P19 million in moral, nominal and exemplary damages plus attorney's fees and litigation expenses.

Vitarich is a publicly listed poultry integrator and livestock feeds manufacturer owned by the Sarmiento family of Bulacan.

Maynilad gets debt break

FOREIGN creditors have given Maynilad Water Services Inc. another six months to settle $100 million worth of loans.

"We have assured them that we will finally obtain an approval for a rate adjustment, but it would take some more time, and they agreed for another extension," Maynilad project finance director Francis Gilles Puno said in an interview. *Christine Gaylican*

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF AUGUST 14, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8M / 2.1M *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	750,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	325,000	350,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/520,000 **	400,000/450,000*/700,000 **
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000 *	90,000/150,000*/280,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	240,000/350,000*/450,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	Please call	Please call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	350,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	770,000	800,000/850,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	350,000 *	240,000/550,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	-	400,000/650,000*/2.0M **
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000 **	250,000/425,000 *
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	170,000/Please call *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000 **
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,800,000	1,850,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000 *	300,000/500,000 *
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/550,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	200,000
WACK WACK	8.0M	8.5M

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Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

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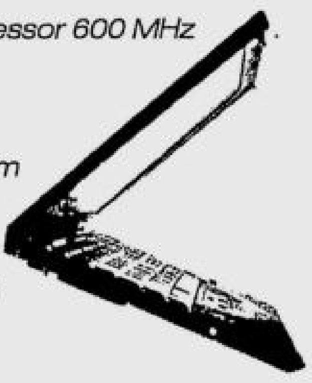

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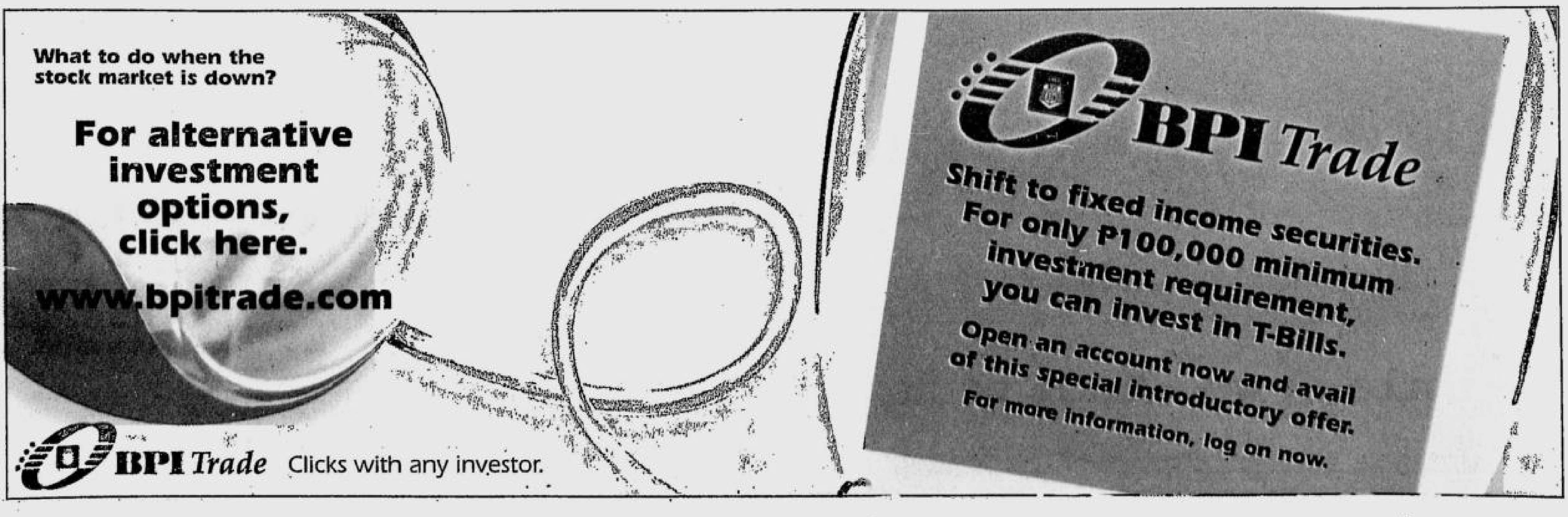

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Environmental-friendly appliance

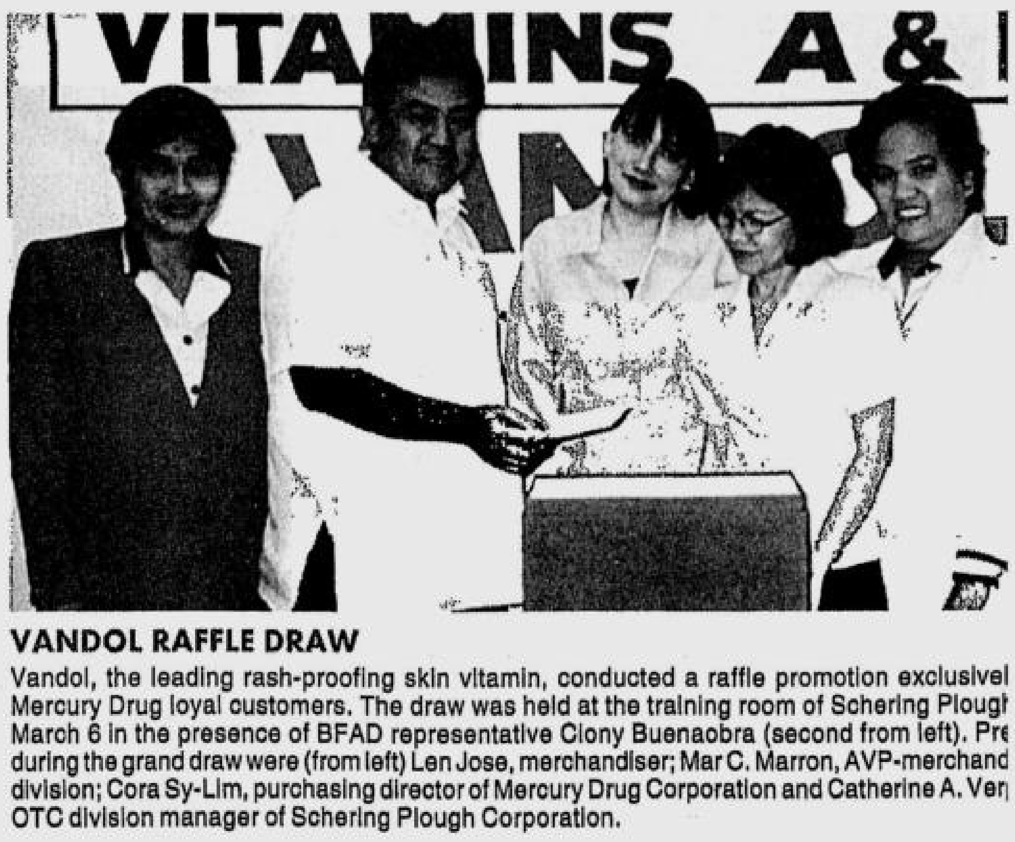
A 100-percent non-CFC refrigerator has recently been developed by technologists of Sharp Corporation, using original technology which replaces specific freons with substitute fluorocarbons. But this ref doesn't stop at merely being CFC-free.

It has a unique duct airflow cooling system that makes the appliance more energy-efficient, making it perfect for cost-conscious housewives. The system works by drawing cold air from freezer into the lower compartments of the frigerator, ensuring an even temperat throughout the interior.

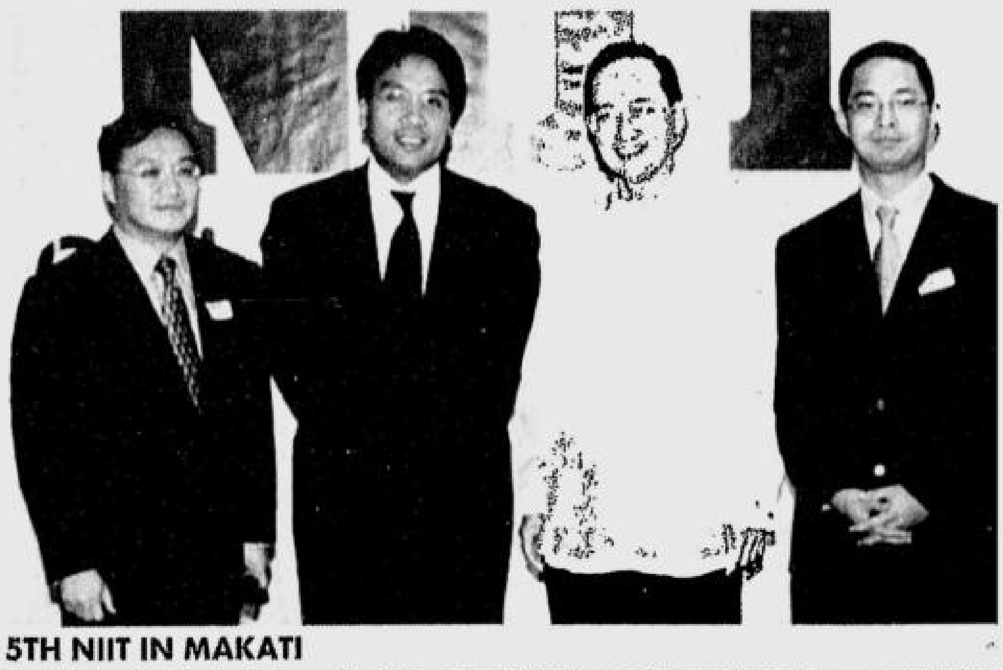
The air duct is positioned on the b wall inside the refrigerator and distrib cold air evenly and effectively. The comes with functional compartments plexiglass tray shelves.

ASIAN HOSPITAL NEW DIRECTORS
Asian Hospital Inc. recently convened for its annual stockholders' meeting and elected its boai directors who shall serve for the ensuing fiscal year. Unanimously nominated and reelected are (f left) sorporate secretary lawyer Mariano Celis, Dr. Luis Rivera, Thomas Lee, Dr. Jorge Garcia, Ev Singson, Rafael de Guzman, Ramon Abejuela, and Edward Oh. Not in photo are Josephine Gotiai Yap, Carl Stanifer, Dr. Vicente Poblete and Isidro Consunji. It was also announced during the mee that the construction of Asian Hospital and Medical Center is now on the finishing stage and that i be ready to open by the latter part of the year. The P600-million syndicated senior term loan it acqu during the previous fiscal year from various financial institutions enabled AHI to meet the construc timetable and procure state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities.

FIRST ASIAN TO WIN GOLD IN ALCATEL WORLD FINALS
Alcatel Philippines vice president for key accounts Chris Y. Carreon received the grand prize troph the Annual Alcatel Commercial Success Story World Competition held recently in Madrid, Spain. theme of this year's competition focused on hi-speed customer development. Careron is the first A to clinch the gold in this contest and is one of only two representatives from Asia Pacific to join the batch this year. His entry, the Digitel Success Story, was proclaimed the grand prize winner am eight finalists worldwide. Shown are (from left) Hugo Contesse, Alcatel Brazil (silver); Julien de W Alcatel group president-Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA); Chris Y. Carreon, Alcatel Philipp (gold); and Chris Bussey, Alcatel USA (bronze).



VANDOL RAFFLE DRAW
Vandol, the leading rash-proofing skin vitamin, conducted a raffle promotion exclusivel Mercury Drug loyal customers. The draw was held at the training room of Schering Ploug March 6 in the presence of BFAD representative Clony Buenaobra (second from left). Pre during the grand draw were (from left) Len Jose, merchandiser; Mar C. Marron, AVP-merchand division; Cora Sy-Lim, purchasing director of Mercury Drug Corporation and Catherine A. Ver OTC division manager of Schering Plough Corporation.



5TH NIIT IN MAKATI
The National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), one of the world's leading computer educ and software solutions providers, recently opened its fifth branch in Makati to elevate inform technology skills to global standards. Shown during the inauguration rites are (from left) PLDT pres and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, NIIT and Pacific Northstar president/CEO Francisco Dizon and NIIT Mindstream managing directo Silayan. ePLDT, a subsidiary of the PLDT group, owns 45 percent of NIIT.

DoF seeks OK of 3 tax reform measures

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will ask Congress to approve three tax measures that will enable the government to collect P25 billion in additional revenue.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the measures include the shift from the income tax system to the gross modified tax system, the lifting of the exemption of Asian Utility Vehicles from taxes and the increase in the excise taxes on so-called 'sin products' including tobacco and liquor.

"We will submit all these tax reform plans to Congress. We hope they will be acted upon favorably so we can increase our revenue collection," said the finance secretary.

While the 'redefinition' of taxes on automobiles can be done through an administrative order, Camacho said he preferred a legislation to strengthen the government's position on such a contentious issue.

A senior finance official said a shift from the current income tax system to the gross modified tax scheme could raise for the government additional P9 billion in revenue. The planned increase in the excise taxes on tobacco and liquor is expected to increase the state's revenue collections by P10 billion while the redefinition of taxes on motor vehicles is seen to contribute additional P5.5 billion to the state coffers.

The gross modified tax system will impose a lower tax range of 20 to 26 percent on businesses but will disallow deductions for items such as advertisement, travel, research and development and representation.

A shift to gross modified tax scheme will also exempt individuals earning no more than P75,000 yearly from payment of income tax.

AUVs or passengers with seating capacity of at least 10 are exempt from excise taxes. A DoF official said the tax exemption enjoyed by AUVs has become a form of leakage in tax collection.This, he said, was because even sports utility vehicles that should have been classified as luxury vehicles benefited from the exemption.

A part of the plan, said the finance official, was to stop using engine displacement as a basis of computing taxes on vehicles. Some have proposed to use retail price as basis.

Banal

(From page B2)

all die tomorrow!

* * *

IN business, you see, they think that times are getting worse, in keeping with the worldwide trend. They doubt that the government could hit even its low growth target.

In the cement industry, for instance, there's a well-funded campaign by a group of importers. It targets the local cement plants owned by foreign groups.

The problem is, those cement plants are doing fine. Going through hard times are actually the Filipino cement firms. Cheap imports are killing them—not the foreign-owned.

There are 19 cement plants here, and 12 of them reported losses in the past two years. If those 12 plants close down, I can't say what more trouble awaits us.

* * *

AS things stand, therefore, this cute administration is only making it easy for people to miss the days under the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Already, this prisoner is coming out in media, saying that the economy was doing better during his time. Sadly, as things are turning out, he is right!

The economy grew by 4.8 percent in the quarter before Wrist Band's impeachment. In the quarter right after he was gone, the growth dropped to 2.5 percent.

Today, also, the annualized inflation rate is doing at 6.7 percent. In 2000, inflation was recorded at 4.4 percent. And don't go asking certain senators which is better!

* * *

AT that time, a certain Rep. Ralph Recto was saying that if only we ousted Wrist Band, the economy would be fine. Recto is qualified to become a government economist.

He said then that we would not attract investments as long as Wrist Band was the president. So we had to create trouble in the streets to oust the world's horniest man.

Today, the Japanese business chamber here warns that we are missing out on new Japanese investments. Not only that, the investments already here may even get out!

It used to be the BOI opens our door wide to foreign investments. Times are changing. Now it closes the door. It must lock the foreign investments here inside.

* * *

THE pullout of Japanese companies, according to their local business chamber, does not even have something to do with poor business conditions. It's more of politics.

The chamber noted three reasons, namely, political instability, problem on law and order, and the labor situation. There is no mention of high cost of electricity, for instance.

To think, in all those areas, precisely, only the government can smoothen out the problems. You don't expect Jaime Zobel de Ayala to run after kidnappers, do you?

Yet here we are, spending P3 million so that a so-called "team of investigators" can invent some numbers that somebody is passing for bank accounts.

CURRENCIES

August 13, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.118944	1.000000	52.3220
Japan	Yen	0.009174	0.008199	0.4290
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594047	1.424600	74.5379
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143639	0.128370	6.7166
Switzerland	Franc	0.660689	0.590458	30.8939
Canada	Dollar	0.726398	0.649182	33.9665
Singapore	Dollar	0.635944	0.568343	29.7368
Australia	Dollar	0.057559	0.051440	2.6915
Bahrain	Dinar	2.968178	2.652661	138.7925
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298385	0.266667	13.9526
Brunei	Dollar	0.632887	0.565611	29.5939
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000123	0.000110	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024728	0.022099	1.1563
UAE	Dirham	0.304723	0.272331	14.2489
Korea	Won	0.000878	0.000785	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893700	46.7602
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456942	23.9081
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136244	7.1286
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405543	21.2188
Austria	Schilling	0.073792	0.065948	3.4505
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022154	1.1591
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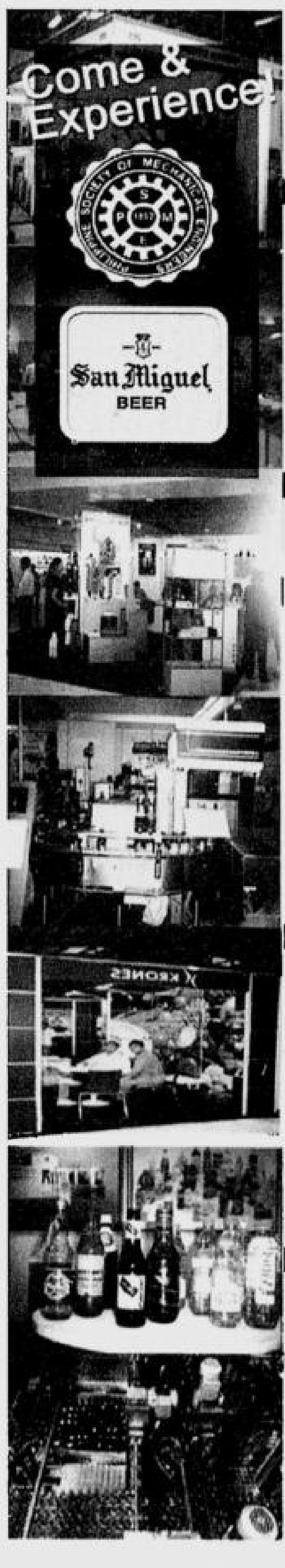

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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

day 1 (august 16)
OPENING CEREMONIES
10:00 am Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
10:20-11:00 Opening Ceremony Proper
3:00 Beer Drinking Contest (preliminary round)
Seminar Room A (Free Admission)
1:00-3:00 Improving Airconditioning and Refrigeration Systems by Swisscontact
3:00-5:00 Difference between booster and balloon-type CO2 recovery by GNQ
5:00-7:00 Compressed Air System Technology by Ingersoll-Rand
Seminar Room B (Php 4,000 for 2 days)
12:00-8:00 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU- DENR SEMINAR ON "The Environmental Impact of the Food and Beverage Industry" (day 1)

day 2 (august 17)
EXPO HOURS: 10AM-8PM
3:00 Beer drinking contest (preliminary round)
Seminar Room A (Free Admission)
10:30-12:30 Principles of Effective Power Monitoring System by Schneider Electric
2:00-4:00 ADAP-KOOL Refrigeration Control Systems by Danfoss
4:00-6:00 Technologies in Automating Food Manufacturing Processes and Beverage Plants by SMC Pneumatics
Seminar Room B
10:00-7:00 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU-DENR SEMINAR ON "The Environmental Impact of the Food and Beverage Industry" (day 2)
**Raffle Draws will be every 2 hours until 6PM
**SOCIALS/APPRECIATION NIGHT
7:00-7:30 pm Cocktails
7:30-7:40 Opening Remarks (Engr. Tablante, Expo chairman)
7:40-9:00 Entertainment Numbers
9:00 Special Message (Engr. Hernandez, PSME-MHC President) Awarding of "Best Booth"

day 3 (august 18)
EXPO HOURS: 10AM-8PM
1:30 pm Awarding of "Most Visited Booth" by Expo Chairman and PSME-MHC President
3:00 pm Beer Drinking Contest (finals)
Seminar Room A
10:30-12:30 Managing A Restaurant Business, CCA (Php 200/session)
2:00-4:00 pm Engineering Ethics in Food Manufacturing Industry, Engr. Belino, DLSU (Free)
4:00-6:00 pm Energy and the Environment, Dr. Culaba, DLSU (Free)
Seminar Room B (Free Admission)
10:30-12:30 Technical Session by FEMC
2:00-4:00 Advances in Spreader Fired Solid Fuel Combustion Systems by Enertech Systems
**Product Demo is on-going at the stage area
**Raffle Draws will be every 2 hours until 6PM

day 4 (august 19)
EXPO HOURS: 10AM-8PM
Seminar Room A (Free Admission)
10:30-12:30 Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point by Divine Sunido
2:00-4:00 pm Sierra "Oil Free Screw Compressor" by Ingersoll-Rand
4:00-6:00 pm Food & Beverage Plus by IFCA Consulting
9:00 pm Egress

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23 big banks net more bad loans in April-June quarter

By Elena R. Torrijos

MORE than half the country's 43 commercial banks saw their nonperforming loan ratios deteriorate further in the second quarter.

Published statements of condition of commercial banks showed that United Overseas Bank Philippines had the highest bad-loans ratio as of end-June.

During the April-June period, UOB Philippines' NPL ratio rose to 62.7 percent from 56.6 percent in the first quarter. The bank reported that the amount of bad loans in its portfolio grew by P800 million to P4.88 billion.

The Philippine National Bank came in second, with a bad-loans ratio of 44 percent in the second quarter from 40 percent in the first quarter. An additional P4.5 billion in loans in its portfolio turned sour in the April-June period.

In terms of absolute amounts, however, PNB tops the list of banks with bad loans. Some P44.736 billion of its loans are considered non-performing, up from the first quarter's P40.29 billion.

The Macapagal administration and PNB majority shareholder Lucio Tan are deep in talks on a debt-for-equity swap that will allow the government to regain control of the debt-laden bank.

Also in the published statements of conditions of commercial banks:

- Bank of Commerce, which absorbed Pan Asia Bank, said its share of bad loans went up to 30.93 percent from 26.9 percent quarter-on-quarter.
- TA Bank of the Philippines, together with Land Bank of the Philippines, reported a slight decrease in their NPL ratios. TA Bank said its bad-loan ratio fell to 24.33 percent from 28 percent while Landbank saw its ratio fall to 24.6 percent from 28.25 percent.
- The Santos family's Prudential Bank saw its bad-loan ratio increase to 24.93 percent from 22.05 percent.
- United Coconut Planters Bank said roughly P2.4 billion of its loans became past due, causing its NPL ratio to jump to 23.37 percent from 18.57 percent.
- Allied Banking Corp.'s bad-loan ratio inched up to 22.73 percent from 21.96 percent while Export and Industry Bank posted rose to 22.29 percent from 19.98 percent.
- Rounding out the top 10 list, Bangkok Bank recorded an NPL ratio of 20.74 percent in the second quarter from 20.27 percent in the first quarter.

Mariwasa shuts down 5 bleeding subsidiaries

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc., one of the country's biggest ceramic and tile manufacturers, is shutting down five bleeding subsidiaries in Pasig following the closure of its main factory.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Mariwasa spokesperson Aurasa Jinawath said the company's board of directors approved the permanent closure of Artistics Ceramica Inc., Cera Linda Inc., Ceramic Tile Specialists Inc., Cyber Ceramics Inc. and Millenium Ceramics Inc.

These companies are located within its Barrio Rosario compound in Pasig, where its main factory stands.

Mariwasa said it would continue to operate its subsidiary in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Mariwasa Siam Ceramics Inc., with Thailand's Siam Cement Public Co. Ltd.

Siam owns 39 percent of Mariwasa.

Mariwasa is hopeful it will earn enough from its Batangas unit to break even by the fourth quarter of 2002, assuming an economic recovery takes place by then.

The company said the closure of its Pasig plant should cut its losses in the second half of the year.

Mariwasa was incorporated in 1963.

It is principally engaged in the production of glazed ceramic floor and water tiles. It claims more than half of the market for these products.

The company earlier undertook a financial restructuring to tap offshore markets.

Since 1998, Mariwasa has been seeking to raise additional equity and reduce its debts.

Jollibee sells stake in pastry unit for ₱64M

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp., the country's largest fastfood chain, said yesterday that it would sell its 50-percent stake in its pastry unit to Delifrance Asia Pte. Ltd. for P63.32 million.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Jollibee said the sale would allow Baker Fresh Foods Philippines Inc. to merge with Delifrance Philippines.

Jollibee said the sale would consist of 68,947 shares with a par value of P100 per share at a selling price of P918.42 per share for a total of P63.32 million.

Jollibee closed at P13.50 on Friday.

Jollibee earlier spent P106 million to acquire 105,922 new shares of Baker Fresh Foods at P1,000 each. This was in line with an increase in the authorized capital stock of Bakers Fresh Foods from 50,000 to 210,000 shares at a par value of P100 each.

The capital expansion was intended to accommodate the entry of foreign investors into Bakers Fresh Foods following the liberalization of the local retail sector.

Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't to give Napocor piggyback ride

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that the national government could borrow as much as 60 percent of the National Power Corp.'s $350-million financing requirements.

Camacho, a former energy secretary, is concurrent chair of Napocor.

He told reporters the government could include Napocor's borrowing requirement in the 10-year global bond issue set for next month or with other future foreign borrowings.

"We could borrow anywhere from 40 to 60 percent of their requirements. We can include it in the global bonds or with other deals because we are getting so many proposals," he said.

This means the government is willing to borrow between $140 million and $210 million to cover for Napocor's financing requirements.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo earlier said the power firm's board of directors had approved the issuance of about $350 million worth of bonds in the overseas market to finance about $300 million in maturing debts.

Alcordo said two weeks ago that the plan to give Napocor a "piggyback" ride on the national government's foreign borrowings had already been scrapped.

He said the power firm would have to pursue its own financing program.

The national government has been borrowing in behalf of the power firm for years.

Last year, the government included in its $1.2-billion global bond issue a $500-million loan for Napocor.

Robinsons Land says income slipped in Q2

By Elena R. Torrijos

ROBINSONS Land Corp., the property arm of the Gokongwei family, said yesterday its net income in the second quarter of the year slipped 4 percent to P221.2 million year-on-year.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that Robinsons Land's gross revenues went down 5.13 percent to P797.54 million in the April-June period.

Its expenses dipped to P506.7 million from P521.8 million during this same period.

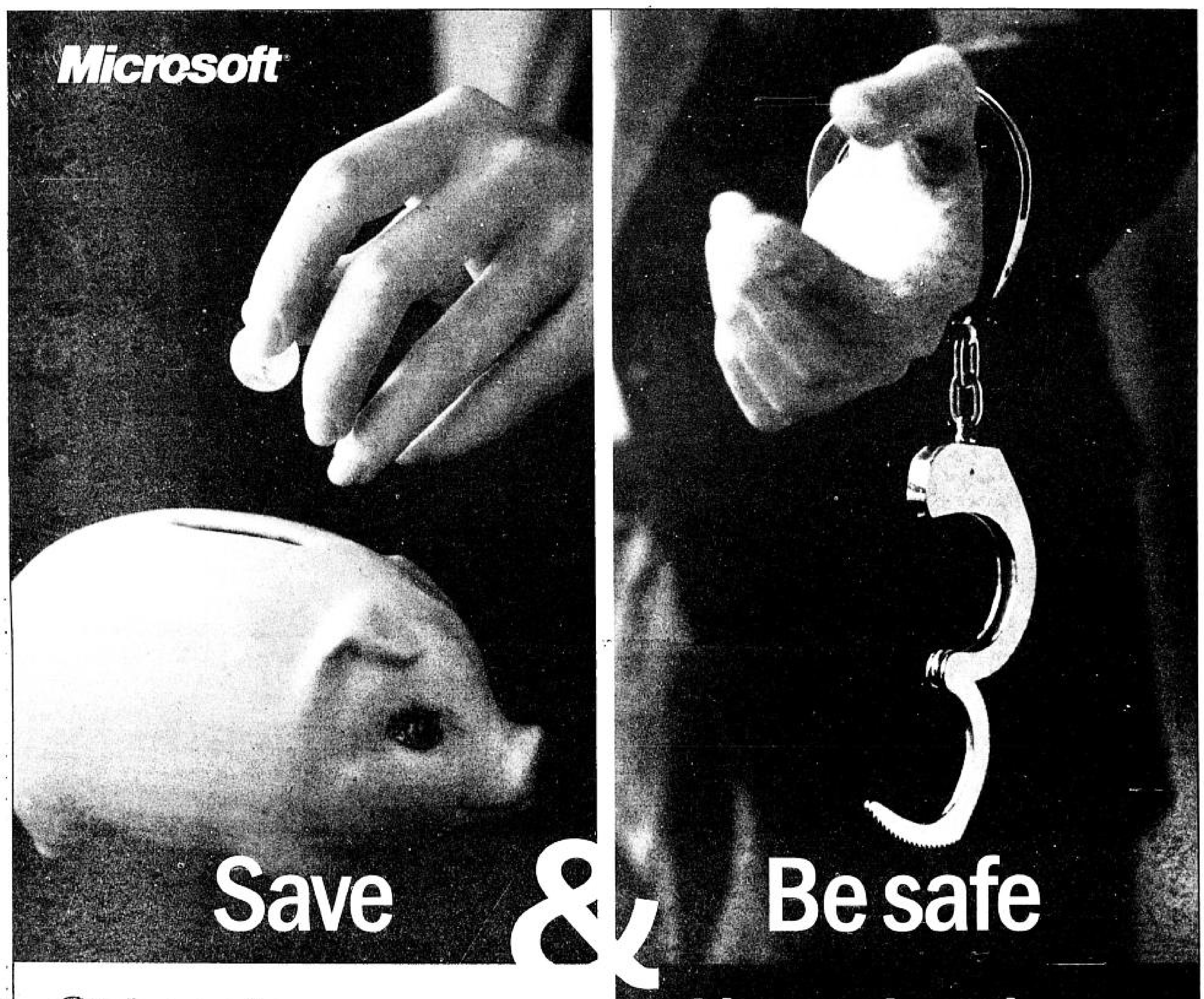
Its commercial centers division accounted for P1.1 billion of Robinsons Land's real estate revenue, up 16.7 percent year-on-year on the back of higher rentals from its six malls as well as a quick take up of two new malls, Robinsons Town Mall in Los Baños, Laguna and Robinsons Place in Cebu.

In a statement, the company said its performance was expected to further improve with the projected completion this year of four shopping centers: Robinsons Place-Novaliches, Robinsons Place-Pasig, Robinsons Place-Iloilo and Robinsons Starmills in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The hotels division generated a nine-month revenue of P573.44 million while Robinsons Land's housing divisions reported a P224-million revenue.

Both figures were flat against comparative levels year-on-year.

Robinsons Land's high-rise buildings division realized a 14.28-percent increase in gross revenue to P583.8 million



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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Official Receipt No. 451-500 BIR registered under TIN#206-753-904 VAT of CALYPSO COLOR CORP. was lost.

Any transactions entered into the said Receipts will not be honored by the Company.

(PDI--Aug. 12,13 & 14, 2001)

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PERSONAL

9 Hail Mary's for 9days and on the 9th day published in the newspaper and your prayers will be answered. Thank you Mama Mary! PJC

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

Is now accepting applications for

Fellowship for Academic Year 2002 (with specific requirements)

I. **Adult Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. **Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- At least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery**
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- Must have passed the certifying examination given by PBS
- At least, qualified to take such certifying examination
- Submission of the result of the in service training examination

IV. **Pulmonary Medicine**
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP

V. **Anesthesiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (board eligible); Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology
- Must have passed departmental interview and the pre-fellowship evaluation
- 3-month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

VI. **1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine.
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(Requires satisfactory completion of Q.U.E.R.T./DOH examinations and passing of the Medical Board.)

I. **Radiology**
II. **Nuclear Medicine**
III. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory**

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors including Training Officers/Directors application)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communication to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2001.*
** Academic Year 2002 starts on January 1, 2002.*

(PDI - Aug. 13 & 14, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel.Nos. 924-3119, 924-7971, 924-7977
Telefax No.: 924-7973

NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION

Pursuant to the Department of Agriculture **MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2** signed by **Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor** on the 30th day of July 2001, the ***National Meat Inspection Commission-Contractors and Fabricators Evaluation and Accreditation Committee*** (NMIC-CFEAC) invites interested ***Project (Slaughterhouse) Contractors and Slaughterhouse Equipment Fabricators*** in the Accreditation of their company/firm for the **construction of slaughterhouse and fabrication of slaughterhouse equipment.**

Interested project contractors and fabricators are to submit the following requirements to the Office of the Executive Director for evaluation:

a.) Company Profile
b.) SEC Registration
c.) Business Permit
d.) Latest Statement of Assets and Liabilities
e.) Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
x f.) List of Projects Undertaken with contact person, address and phone number
* g.) PCAB registration (Contractors Category)
h.) Pictures showing the different parts/locations in the fabrication plant or machine shop

Eligible applicant may pay a non-refundable fee of P500.00 upon submission of a written application and requirements for the accreditation. Deadline for submission is on **August 20, 2001.** However, this accreditation is without prejudice to a continuing accreditation for expansion of the List of Accredited Project Slaughterhouse Contractors and Slaughterhouse Equipment Fabricators.

Qualified contractors and fabricators shall be notified by NMIC-CFEAC through telephone or fax on **August 31, 2001.**

For further information, please contact Dr. Carlos Hernandez at telephone nos. 924-7973/924-3119/924-7980 local 22.

Contractors and Frabricators
Evaluation and Accreditation Committee

x for Contractors only
** for Fabricators only*

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(PDI -- Aug. 14, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel: 911-6433/911-6001 loc 6592; Tel/Fax: 912-5491
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the UPGRADE OF TWO (2) C-130 AIRCRAFTS of the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of Four Hundred Forty Six Million Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php 446,290,560.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from prime contractors who may be duly authorized Program Depot Maintenance (PDM) Facility of Lockheed for the C-130 airframe or landing gear shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **August 14, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00) which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidders authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 28, 2001** at 2:00 PM (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the C-130 Aircrafts and PAF facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **September 19, 2001** at 9:00 AM (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 1:00 PM at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC):

(Sgd.) **JOSE L. REYES**
Colonel (GSC) PAF
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 13 & 14, 2001)

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John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

Atty. Razon Tumbocon-Haresco

Chairman, Tariff Commission (1968-1985)
Consultant, DSWD and Senate Committee on Economic Affairs under H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (1992-2000)
Head, Senate Tax and Tariff Office (1990-1992)
Consultant, UNDP, ADB and World Bank (1973-1986)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord on the 11th day of August 2001 at the age of 83.

Wife to **Teodorico Sr.** (†), and mother to her loving children **Primalee** & **Leen Paauw**, **Mauino "Mike"** and **Teodorico "Ted" Jr.** & his best friend **Sylvia**; siblings **Constancia** (†), **Patria**, **Augusto** (†), **Ciceron** (†), **Lolito**, **Soledad**, **Benny**, **Leonore**, **Carmelita**, **Lorna**, **Reynaldo**, **Mauro Jr.**, **Rene** and **Clarina**; grandchildren **Paolo**, **J.T.** & **Gina**, **Patricia**, **Jocelo**, **Amara**; great grandson **Julian**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Premiere II, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Holy Masses will be offered every 6:30 p.m. until Thursday, 16 August 2001.

Nanay Zoning's remains will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on Friday, 17 August 2001, to be held in state at Casa Prima, Ibajay, Aklan. [illegible]

Interment will be on Monday, 20 August 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Special Mass at St. Peter the Apostle's Church, Ibajay, Aklan.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary in Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City will be highly appreciated.

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Isaiah 55:12

HONESTO "HONEY" O. FRANCISCO

June 5, 1913 – August 11, 2001

Began his new life with our Lord on August 11, 2001.

He will be missed by his wife **Aurora**; his children **Floy** and **Tony Aguenza**, **Alex** and **Winnie**, **Jun** and **Joni**, **Rory** and **Bruce Tolentino** and **Mely** and **Paul Mueller**; his grandchildren **Lian** and **Jade**, **Tim** and **Stelle**, **Mike**, **Paolo**, **Mia**, **Josh**, **Resa**, and **Nick**; his great-grandchildren **Arianna** and **Julian**; his sister **Alice Torres**, his brother **Carmelo** and **Rosario** and their families; and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love him.

His remains are at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish (Twin Hearts), corner Bulletin and Daily Mirror Sts., West Triangle, Quezon City.

Cremation is scheduled immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, August 18, 2001.

Instead of flowers, we would appreciate donations to the Emmaus Center's Program for the Elderly.

We would appreciate your prayers for him.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Virginia Vianzon Inciong

of BF Homes, Parañaque

Loving wife of **Galicano V. Inciong**; selfless mother of **Gia**, **Celeste**, **Nathaniel** and **Vivian**; and doting grandmother of **Angelo**, **Bianca** and **Tala**, has found peace in our Maker on the 11th of August 2001.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, in Sucat, Parañaque City where a Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday the 16th of August 2001 at 3:00 PM.

Interment immediately follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Eugenio G. Albano

of Pinili, Ilocos Norte

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 13, 2001 at the age of 89.

He will be missed by his wife **Mariquita**; his children **Bernardita**, **Danny** and **Susan**, and **Rorie**; his grandchildren **Majah** and **Mel Marion**, **Marlon** and **Enriquito, III**; his great grandchildren **Lily** and **Cheyenne**.

His remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 18, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CARIDAD PUNZALAN NARVAEZ

of Maragondon, Cavite and Makati City

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 10, 2001 at the age of 87.

Her loving husband **Guillermo**; children **Rody**, **Boyet** and **Bing**, **Amor** and **Ranny Nuñez**, **Egay** (†) and **Gina**, **Pepen** and **Dette**, **Gimo** and **Normie**, **Marivic** and **Patrick Lo**, and grandchildren request the pious readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City and will be brought to the Phil. Independent Church in Maragondon, Cavite on Thursday, August 16, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 18, 2001 at the Maragondon Aglipayan Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (COBAC)

July 25, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Award Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accredited Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "D and C" and registration of "Small B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project Repair/Renovation of Building No. 4 of the Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)		August 6-16, 2001
2.	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents		August 23, 2001
3.	Posting of eligible contractors		August 31, 2001
4.	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents		September 3-4, 2001
5.	Pre-bid Conference		September 12, 2001
6.	Submission of Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM	September 28, 2001
7.	Opening of Bids	10:00 AM	September 28, 2001

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00).

DOH-COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by DOH-COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. DOH-COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

TOTAL PROJECT ALLOCATION is P1,500,000.00. The approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) **ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D.**
Chairman, COBAC

(PDI – Aug. 5 & 14, 2001)

National Power Corporation

Date : August 8, 2001
Reference No. :

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project : **Sp01.BTRP.Lt-0328, Construction and Erection of Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project.**
   - **Schedule I - San Lorenzo S/Y - Batangas S/S, 230 kV DC/ST/SP**
   - **Schedule III - Mak-Ban - Calamba # 51 230 kV DC/ST**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by NPC), constructing complete the said transmission line.
3. Initial Cost Estimate for the Contract to be Bid:
   Schedule I - P 94.00 M
   Schedule III - P 122.00 M
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB
   License Particular:
   Schedule I - Category AAA - Electrical Works
   Schedule III - Category AAA - Electrical Works
   Registration Particular:
   Schedule I - Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works
   Schedule III - Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting August 13, 2001 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms documents and statements shall be on before August 24, 2001 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

Cor. Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
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(PDI - Aug. 12 & 14, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
Kagawaran ng Katarungan
(Department of Justice)
PAMBANSANG KAWANIHAN NG PAGSISIYASAT
(NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)
Taft Avenue, Manila

Tanggapan ng Patnugot
(Office of the Director)

08 August 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, Manila invites interested Medium "A" and above contractors, preferably exposed and expert on interior works to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the proposed RENOVATION OF NBI MAIN BLDG. LOBBY AND OTHERS, NBI Compound, Taft Avenue, Manila with an estimated cost of more than PESOS: FIVE MILLION (P 5,000,000.00).

Pre-qualification forms are available at the office of the PBAC Secretariat, Room 101 NBI Main Bldg., Taft Avenue, Manila.

Particulars:

Submission of accomplished Pre-qualification forms	starting August 9 to 15, 2001 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at PBAC Secretariat Room 101 NBI Main Building
Issuance of Bid Documents	August 24, 2001 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at PBAC Secretariat Room 101 NBI Main Building
Pre-Bid Conference	August 27, 2001 2:00 p.m., at NBI Training Room NBI Main Building
Schedule for submission and Opening of Bids	September 6, 2001 2:00 p.m. at NBI Training Room NBI Main Building

The Pre-qualification Statement (PRE-C), duly notarized, conform and be executed in the prescribed form and shall be under oath signifying their correctness and authenticity.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification, Bid bond, Performance bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

The NBI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **GEN. REYNALDO G. WYCOCO**
DIRECTOR

(PDI – Aug. 9, 12 & 14, 2001)

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

NOTICE

TO : **ALL APPLICANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE**
DATE : **08 August 2001**
SUBJECT : **Implementation of the LTO Drug Testing Program on 04 September 2001**

Notice is hereby given to all applicants for new Professional or Non-Professional Driver's License or renewal thereof that, **EFFECTIVE 04 SEPTEMBER 2001**, the Land Transportation Office shall process only the application thereof if the same is accompanied by a negative drug test laboratory report issued by a duly accredited Drug Testing Center, which has a validity period of only fifteen (15) days from date of issuance.

This mandatory requirement is pursuant to Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4136, as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 398, and is in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Order No. BGC-A0-001 dated 23 February 1999 and Memorandum Circular No. EMA-MC-01338 dated 19 July 2001.

For information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
Brig. Gen. AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Aug. 14, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources of the PCs for Public High Schools Project (BAC-ITR for PCPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or OEM distributors to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package consisting of 20 PCSs, 2 printers, 1 external CD ROM drive, and 1 external modem for each of the 534 public high schools in Luzon and 235 public high schools in Mindanao. The Project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of Special Concerns c/o Dir. Dita Maralit / Lydia Guevarra, at the 5/F, DTI Building, #361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (from 8:00 AM -- 5:00 PM) from **August 16** to **August 23, 2001**. Deadline for the submission of Qualification Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposal is on **August 28, 2001**, 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 17, 2001**, Friday 10:00 AM at the 40-Seater Conference Room, 4/F, BOI Building, #385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The BAC-ITR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **TOBY MELISSA MONSOD**
Chair, BAC-ITR for PCPS

(PDI -- Aug. 14 & 15, 2001)

OBITUARIES

> *"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."*
>
> 2 Cor. 5:4-5

GONZALO S. DAVID

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 12, 2001 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **Trining**; children **Tessie & Rudy, Odie & Marcial, Rodrigo & Minnie, Tony & Rachel, Liz & Ding, Carlos & Dinah, Edgar & Joy**; sisters **Flor, Auring & Dely**; grandchildren and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 15, 2001 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, at 10:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Hope Chapel.

Our Dearly Beloved

Josephine "Shasta" Belmonte Brillantes

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 11, 2001 at the age of 16.

Her loving parents **Jay** and **Jette**; brothers **Chicco** and **John**; grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Spirit Parish, Nepomoceno St., B.F. Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST
Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel, Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609
Telefax 641-1760
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad
Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City
Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St.
Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133
Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon
Metro Manila
Tels. 2812983; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 322-5247 ; (045) 888-2959

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136 ; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City
Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3808 to 11
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-1204
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village,
Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto Street,
Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue
517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; (0919) 348-7131

People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

iWeb officially opens its doors

IWEB Corp. and its sister company iFirst Institute of Information Technology held their grand twin launching. The ribbon-cutting rites was led by commissioner Manuel D. Punzal of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with iWeb's CEO David Ong and SVP Clyde Tan, and Simpson Ong, president of Dexterton Industrial Corporation. The blessing of the establishment was performed earlier in the day by Fr. Roberto Barcelona.

The event was also graced by other esteemed members of the academic community, from administrators to student leaders, particularly from the Mapua Institute of Technology and De La Salle University. Other distinguished guests from the IT sector were also in attendance to commemorate the occasion, such as Digitel One, AsianTech, American Technologies Inc,. and MCI WorldCom. Members of the press were also on-hand to witness the inauguration.

iWeb's mission is to introduce a wide array of innovative products for the growing needs of the Filipino community to be technologically advanced. Its Gotcha! prepaid Internet access card has already become a big hit with its unique additional I©OLONY access in every card. The I©OLONY is an all-around free portal website available for all Gotcha! customers. The site features everything an Internet user needs, from chatrooms to downloads to daily news to network gaming.

On the other hand, the iFirst Institute of Information Technology aims to produce certified IT professionals to meet the calls of the country's backlog in qualified computer specialists. Its faculty is composed of qualified IT professionals headed by Dr. Teodorica Micua Jr. acting as its academic director and Arnel Fajardo as its planning and development consultant.

iWeb Corp. and iFirst thanks all those who attended the launching for their continued support and cooperation.

For more information, visit www.iweb.ph and www.ifirst.ph, or call 323-9911.

AIA TOP BRANCH RECRUITERS

AIA Products Inc. awarded its top branch recruiters during its recently held sales conference held at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel. The awardees are shown with AIA top officials Neri F. Buenconsejo (left), executive vice president and Teddy B. Gutierrez (right), president; Sonia Mungcal (south branch); Nenita Guzarin (south branch); Cres Mendoza (south branch); Fely Dalay (central branch); Mina Lopez (central branch). Not in photo is Tess Dapanas (central branch).

Shopwise Supercenter's wildest deals in town

UNTAMED Shopwise unleashed the wildest deals in town when it launched the Wild Deals promotion last July 28. At stake in this jungle paradise for bargain hunters are a brand new Nissan Frontier at 50 percent off, 50 JVC colored TV sets at 75 percent off, and 100 Nokia 3310 cellular phones at an unbelievable 85 percent discount. It's a first of its kind promotion that will surely bring out the animal in you.

Choose one of the three wild deals that is suited to your budget and shopping style: the Platinum deal, the Gold deal, or the Silver deal.

The Platinum Deal

Designed for heavyweight shoppers, the platinum deal gives you the chance to own a brand new Nissan Frontier. Every P10,000 worth of purchases collected at Shopwise during the promo period will entitle you to a platinum voucher. If you have the most number of platinum vouchers at the end of the promo period, you will have the first option to avail of the special 50-percent-off deal on the Nissan Frontier (4x2 or 4x4 manual or automatic models) of your choice.

The Gold Deal

For wise shoppers who make Shopwise the store of choice, there's the gold promotion. Every P5,000 worth of purchase will entitle customers to a gold voucher. The top 50 customers with the most number of gold vouchers at the end of the promo period will have the first option to avail of JVC 21" television sets at P3,000.

The Silver Deal

There's also the Silver deal for every budget and lifestyle. Every P3,000 worth of purchase collected at Shopwise during the promo period will entitle customers to a silver voucher. The top 100 customers with the most number of silver vouchers at the end of the promo period will have the first option to purchase Nokia 3310 cellular phones for only P950. That's 85 percent off the regular price.

According to Catherine Y. Tantoco, vice president for merchandising at Shopwise, "The Wild Deals promotion was conceptualized to reward our loyal shoppers. Unlike your traditional raffle promotion in which winning is purely a matter of luck, we are allowing our best customers to avail of an extraordinary opportunity to own a luxury item of their choice at rock bottom prices. In fact, this promotion is a win-win proposition in many ways. Shoppers who shop at Shopwise enjoy its everyday low prices. If they are also members of our loyalty program, they continue to earn rebates on all their purchases at Shopwise, plus there is the exciting possibility of owning a brand new Nissan Frontier, a JVC colored TV or a 3310 Nokia cellular phone. You can't lose with a deal like that.

Furthermore, she adds that, "By segmenting the deals into three levels, we tailor fitted the promotion across socio-economic brackets and shopping intensity. In short, there's something here for everybody."

Wild deals launch wildly successful

The launch event captivated throngs of shoppers who came last July 28. A giant elephant puppet roamed Shopwise Alabang, together with 8-foot-tall giraffes. Shopwise second level was transformed into a miniature jungle replete with artificial foliage, mist, jungle sounds from percussionists, and special lighting in warm amber tones.

Dancers garbed in animal costumes set a trail as they unveiled the showcases one at a time to the tune of "Circle of Life" from the Broadway hit ''Lion King''. The guest of honor for the afternoon was madman Martin Nievera, whose presence energized the already "wild" store ambience.

The Shopwise Wild Deals promotion will run from July 28 to Oct. 28 at all Shopwise branches. Shopwise is located at the Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, and Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz extension in Makati. Shopwise partners for the Wild Deals promotion are Universal Motors Corporation and JVC Philippines.

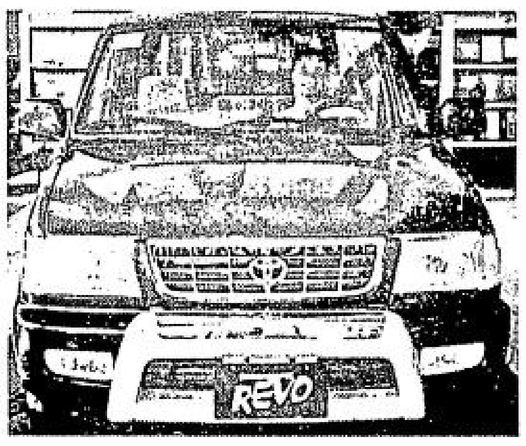
8-OCT 01
Own a brand new Nissan Frontier at 50% off, a 21" TV for P3000 cellphone
It's so easy your receipts which will purch

SHOWN are (from left) Shopwise executive vice president and general manager Donnie Tantoco III, Shopwise marketing manager Frances Yu, Universal Motors Corporation senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth Lee, UMC ad and promo senior manager Lani de Leon and madman Martin Nievera.

POSTERITY pose from the Wild Deals dancers and performers.

STARTING IT RIGHT FOR SCHOOL NURSES

DECS-HNC and Kimberly-Clark officers pose during the seventh annual work conference on the 'Starting Right!' refresher course for school nurses. Shown are (from left) DECS-HNC officials senior education program specialist Rosario Magat, assistant director Thelma Santos, director Adelfo Trinidad, senior health program officer Zaida Vite, DECS Division of Cavite nurse in charge Loida Ramos, (standing, from left) K-CPI senior product manager Aileen Joaquin, product manager Beverly Fugaban, DECS Division of Tarlac nurse in charge Marlon Molina, K-CPI product manager Iris Yu and O & M Advertising's Jay Redondo.



DISTINCTIVE, YET FUNCTIONAL

Now on sale in the Philippines—the Toyota Revo Bumper Overrider. You can dress up your old Toyota Revo with this latest accessory to hit the local market. The Revo Bumper lends an aesthetically pleasing, modern look to your car, at the same time ensures added protection. Made of ABS plastic and stainless steel, the Revo Bumper Overrider (shown above) is silver painted and lightweight. It fits easily into all Revo models. The Revo Bumper Overrider is available in four Toyota branches, namely Toyota Shaw Accessories Center, Toyota Ortigas, Toyota Pasong Tamo, and Megamall branches.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION
VISITING STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

8 SCHOLARS TO SINGAPORE

Singapore ambassador to the Philippines, HE Jacky Foo, recently awarded the Singapore International Foundation-Asean Visiting Student Fellowship to eight outstanding Filipino students. The student fellows are now in an 18-week program at the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University. Singapore ambassador Jacky Foo (fifth from left) poses with SIF fellows (from left) Cathleen Michelle Dee, Pamela Concepcion Sio, Julie Anne Hudtohan, Donna-Zea Rosete, Herbert Docena, Marlon Sevilla, and Arnel Talisayon. Karlo Roberto Torio is not in picture.

Cocopea turnover ceremonies

AYUYAO

SALAZAR

THE COORDINATING Council of Private Educational Associations (Cocopea) will hold a dinner-reception to be highlighted by formal ceremonies marking the official turnover of the Cocopea chairmanship and presidency from Dr. Maria Lim-Ayuyao, the president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Pacu), to Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, Jr., SVD, the president of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP). The turnover rites will be held at the Casino Español on T.M. Kalaw Street in Ermita today, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

The Cocopea turnover rites has been made possible with financial and technical support from the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (Fape).

Wanted: science clubbers

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. (PSYSC) invites all elementary and high school science enthusiasts to join the science clubbing movement.

PSYSC conducts annual interactive workshops, science camps and field trips annually which aims to promote public understanding of science, technology and environment. Affiliation is ongoing from June 18 to Sept. 30.

If you are interested, call 920-8174 or 920-9561 or write PSYSC at 317 C David's Place, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or visit www.psysc.org.

Warning: science clubbing can be addictive.

DELTA FAUCET ENGINEER SAM STRAUB VISITS RP

'The quest for excellence in one's field is a never ending task', says Delta Faucet International product engineer Sam Straub. As such, he took the task of conducting a marketing research during his most recent visit at the Delta Faucet Company in the Philippines. Straub has visited some of the top hardware stores in the country such as MC Home Depot (Ortigas branch), Ace Hardware (SM Megamall), and Coby's (Edsa Shangri-la Plaza). These visits provided Straub with a hands-on experience on the distinctive preferences of homeowners and construction professionals to help further his research on the profile of the Asian consumers. Shown above is Straub (right) with Delta Faucet national sales manager engineer Billy Francisco.

Rare, authentic Indonesian handicrafts

RARE, authentic antiques and Indonesian handicrafts as well as terracotta products are now in the Philippines housed under an exceptionally sleek showroom in Manila.

The Source Asia Philippines Inc. offers wide array of furnishings such as aromatic throw pillows made from cedar roots, curtains, Indonesian sandstone lamp shades and candle holders, terra cotta garden lights and fountains, religious icons, toilet fixtures from laminated leaves and light furniture made of teak wood.

All reasonably priced and available in resale and wholesale rates, The Source Asia Philippines welcomes architects, interior designers and everybody who love decorating their homes with elegant, authentic pieces that are within their budget.

Also on sale are simple and aesthetic paintings of a Balinese artist that would complement every mood and design.

The Source Asia Philippines Inc. is at 562 J. Nakpil Street, Malate, Manila, with tel. no. 524-8308/588-7366, fax no. 525-6214.

Peso-dollar rate only 49:1 at Duty Free

HERE'S welcome news to all *balikbayans*, overseas Filipino workers, as well as regular travelers.

When they shop at Duty Free Philippines (DFP) Fiestamall from now until Sept. 24 they will have the power to shop for more items.

It's "Peso Power" like no other. Another compelling reason why people should go shopping at DFP Fiestamall, because every dollar is equivalent to only P49--a far cry from the prevailing exchange rate nowadays.

With "Peso Power," shoppers can pay in pesos and they will automatically be charged with the discounted rate of P49 to a dollar. Or they can pay in dollars and they will get the equivalent discount based on the percentage difference between the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rate for the day and P49.

This is DFP Fiestamall's special treat, its way of empowering Filipinos abroad and their relatives to enjoy as they go shopping for the best products from all over the world.

Delayed port project to proceed

CA nixes ruling on Batangas land price

BY ED C. PERPEÑA

THEY will probably lose half of the proverbial egg; but they will not end up holding its empty shell.

Owners whose pieces of land will be used as site for the Batangas port expansion need not expect a windfall promised by a lower court ruling pegging the fair market value of their land at P5,500 per square meter. Reason: the Court of Appeals had just declared that ruling null and void.

In its decision, the CA said the regional trial court of Batangas erred when it dismissed outright the government's motion asking the lower court to reconsider its twin orders pegging the price of land and mandating the garnishment of some funds intended for land payment. The CA then issued a writ of certiorari, indicating a mandatory review of the case is in the offing.

The CA decision was penned by Associate Justice Romeo Brawner. It was rendered July 30; but the INQUIRER got hold of a copy of it only yesterday.

The appellate court's decision left at square one the tedious task of determining the "just compensation" for landowners.

At loggerheads since 1999

The Philippine Ports Authority, which runs the Batangas port, and some 140 families and individuals who own a total of 128.84 hectares of land have been at loggerheads since 1999 when the PPA subjected the property to expropriation proceedings. The land will be used as site for a container yard and berthing facilities for foreign vessels under the second phase of the Batangas port development program.

The CA ruling, however, strengthens the position of the Philippine Ports Authority, which runs the Batangas port, to "take possession of the land" in question.

Hector Miole, PPA district manager for Luzon, said the PPA would take off from the CA ruling as this already allowed the constructors to break ground in the project site. The joint venture between Shimizu Corp. and F.F. Cruz handles the project construction.

Ill-effects

Miole and other PPA executives have been wary of the ill-effects that the deadlock on land expropriation brings to the international community, specifically to Tokyo. It is the Japan Bank for International Cooperation that is funding the Batangas port project.

Still, the landowners are not expected to accept the CA ruling without subjecting it to another legal hurdle before the Supreme Court. Since Day 1, they have been seeking "just compensation" for their land. The P5,500-per-square-meter figure, as pegged by the lower court, more or less approximates their version of "just compensation."

Of course, the price tag set by the Batangas RTC was way, way off the original offer made by the PPA.

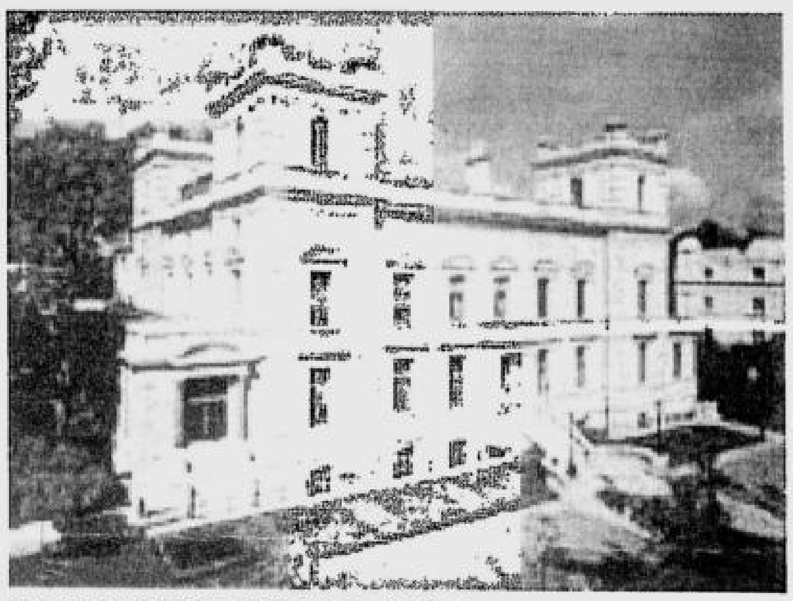
Zonal valuation

Sometime in 1999, when it conducted a zonal valuation of the land, the PPA then estimated that the property's tag price is between P300 and P350 per square meter. A much bigger block of the property is soft, wet, low-lying land found within the transition zone between Batangas City and Batangas Bay.

Last year, however, the three-man Board of Commissioners which the Batangas RTC formed to help determine the land's fair market value came up with the figure of P4,800 per square meter. That served as the basis of the lower court's ruling that P5,500 per square meter would be the price constituting the "just compensation" for landowners.

The government lawyers have since challenged those orders and sought legal remedy for the CA. But on June 13, 2001, the PPA board of directors adopted a resolution making a "final offer" of P500 per square meter as "compensation for the value of their (owners) land."

The PPA's final offer may not look good in the eyes of landowners who have been fighting the PPA tooth and nail in the legal front. But the offer at least assures them they will get a good part go the proverbial egg, and not its empty shell.


18 and 19 KENSINGTON Palace Gardens

London mansion: Yours for just £85M (₱6.5B)

YOU often hear of people complaining about the cost of housing in the Philippines. But in London the market for landed houses continues to rise.

At £85 million, the London mansion is the most expensive house ever put on the market in Britain and probably the world, putting even Bill Gates' £75 million Seattle spread in the shade. Lovingly restored and modernized by Iranian-born scholar and philanthropist Dr. David Khalili, the property modestly known as 18 and 19 Kensington Palace Gardens has now gone on the open market.

FPDSavills has been appointed to handle the sale and the asking price is £85 million. According to Jonathan Hannam, managing director for FPDSavills in the Philippines, the Bill Gates record will be broken this time.

The owner is 56-year-old Dr. Khalili, who bought the two rundown former embassy buildings from the Crown Estate six years ago. At the time the cost was reported at £40 million. During the last six year he has added another £40 million turning both into one grand mansion, with eye-popping features, specifications and decorations. He said it was an example of his desire to make a "major contribution to this country."

The attention to detail led to white marble being imported from the same source in Agra as was used to build the Taj Mahal, and more than 400 craftsmen that currently work on the monument were brought in to lay the stones.

According to Tina Templeton, the associate director-Residential for FPDSavills, some of the local market players have already been active in London. In fact, London's most expensive sale to date has been that of St. John's Lodge in Regent's Park, bought for £40 million more than six years ago by Prince Jefri, brother of the Sultan of Brunei.

So what do you get for your money? The project includes 5,500 square meters of accommodation with an underground car park for 20 vehicles. Also included is the basement house, which has a complete Turkish bath, with a marble massage slab, spa pool, fountain, swimming pool and a hairdressing salon.

Easy bank terms for Crown Asia houses, lots

FOUR major banks are now offering easy financing terms for Crown Asia houses and lots in southern Metro Manila, making it even easier to own that dream home.

The banks—RCBC, Keppel Monte, Union Bank and IBank—offer different financing packages for the houses and lots, a notable feature of which is the low interest and terms of up to 20 years.

Apart from this, Crown Asia offers in-house financing on easy terms and one of the better discount packages for spot-cash purchases and even a deferred down-payment package.

In-house financing allows terms of 5 to 10 years while the banks offer a 2-year payment scheme without interest and even discounts on the down payment if this is made within a specific number of days.

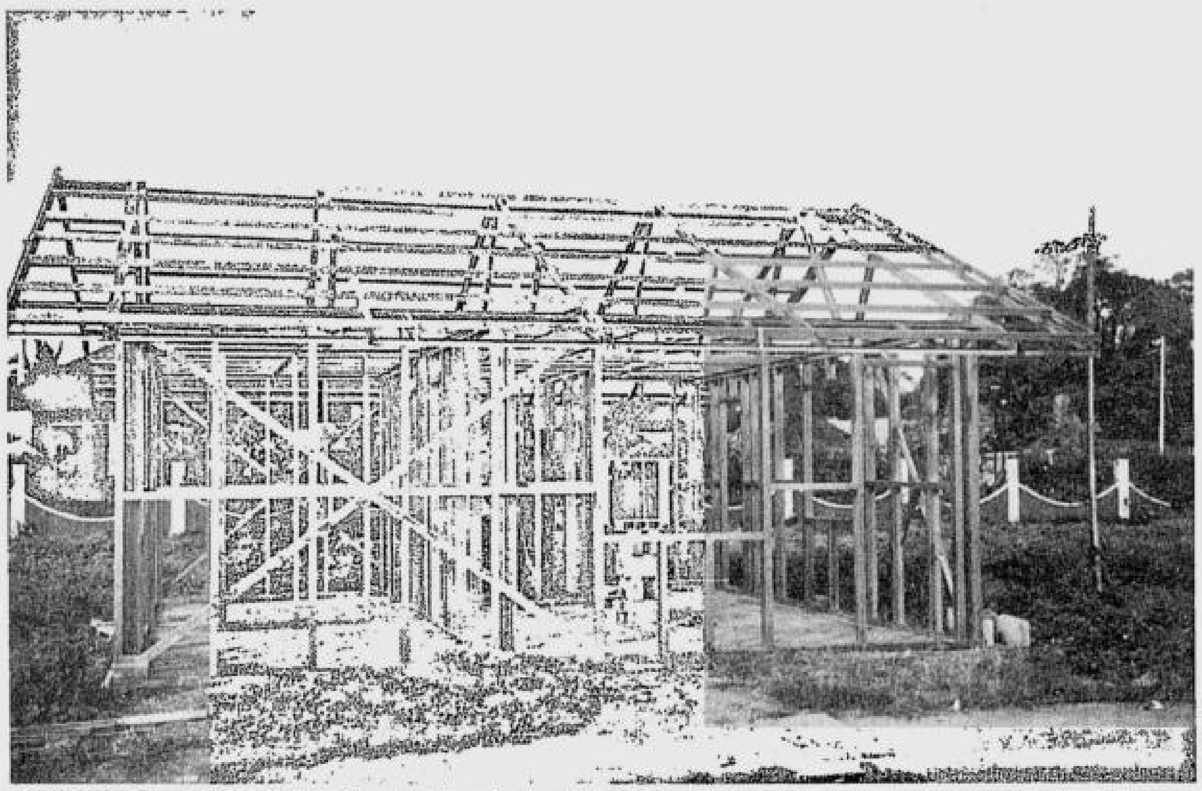
The easy financing and discounted cash purchase terms make this the best time to buy that Crown Asia house you have been wanting to own or even just to invest your hard-earned money into a house and lot.

"This is one of the better times for a solid investment like a house and lot which has always appreciated in value even in the middle of an economic crunch," said Rosario H. Javier, Crown Asia chief operating officer.

Javier added that this holds true "especially for our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who not only want to buy their loved ones here a house but would also like to be able to see a tangible representation of their hard work abroad."

OFWs can access the company's website—http://crownasia.com.ph—to view the model houses as well as make inquiries (via e-mail) about them. This allows the OFWs to participate even in the choice of house model and location. OFWs can then let their loved ones know about their investment choice easier.

A variety of Crown Asia homes are available for the different subdivisions they have established within a few kilometers of southern Metro Manila. These subdivisions have a variety of amenities available and feature the themed-ambience Crown Asia subdivisions have been known for.


DIAMOND Head Homes' "steel-framed housing system"

Steel-framed housing system earns Aitech accreditation

US-BASED Diamond Head Global Corp. has received accreditation for the Diamond Head Homes "steel-framed housing system" from the Accreditation of Innovative Technologies for Housing (Aitech) interagency committee.

Chaired by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the Aitech interagency committee is a government body tasked with evaluating and approving technologies for low-cost housing.

The Aitech's accreditation certificate serves as an endorsement of Diamond Head's system for low-cost housing projects, which it introduced during Worldbex 1999, Asia's premier building and construction exposition, organized by Worldbex Services International.

Said Diamond Head president and CEO Darrell M. Apron: "The Worldbex 1999 was so well-organized that I was able to meet and forge partnerships with major developers in the Philippines. This in turn, made Diamond Head a major player in the Philippines and is now recorded with the Aitech Division. Owing to this accreditation with the housing authority, the company is now in a better position to conduct business in the country."

With the certification, Diamond Head Homes hopes to be able to offer more of its services to the local market and continue furthering the development of the construction industry.

In addition, the firm is also keen on helping provide cost-effective housing for the masses. According to Sabihon, he anticipates better mortgage acceptance of the technology among government financing agencies as one positive offshoot of the Aitech endorsement.

Moreover, Diamond Head formed a joint venture with two local firms—Quadrillon Group of Companies and Fortune Star Construction and Development Corp.—after participating in Worldbex 2000. Under the joint-venture agreement, the three companies plan to build around 100,000 low-cost housing units in Cavite, Bulacan and San Mateo in Rizal over a period of five years.

Another project in the pipeline is the shipping and distribution in the local market of the K-lath wire mesh material, a product of the Double Wire K-Lath System, designed to save costly labor while providing stronger and more error-free construction.

On account of the positive results that the company enjoyed from its participation in Worldbex trade exhibitions, Sabihon announced that Diamond Head will take part again in Worldbex 2002.

NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT LAGUNA BELAIR

The two-story CJRS Building, located along The Strip at Laguna BelAir, recently opened its doors to serve the needs of residents of the township and nearby communities. CJRS is a one-stop shop housing a convenience store, an Internet café, a ready-to-wear boutique, a beauty salon, a bookstore and a laundry outlet. McDonald's and Metrobank already have their respective branches operating in Laguna BelAir while Servitek will soon open a car service shop in the area. Aside from The Strip, The Center is the other part of the commercial center of Laguna BelAir, a township development of Empire East Land Holdings Inc.

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PLUMBERS' TRAINING WORKSHOP

Delta Faucet Co., the No. 1 faucet brand in the United States, recently conducted its 5th Plumbers' Training Workshop at Crown Peak Hotel in Subic. From left are Delta Faucet country manager Billy Francisco Jr., general manager for Asia-Pacific Edwin Deuna and business liaison officer for Luzon Eric Evangelista. The training workshop was part of the Nampap Luzon conference that focused on globalization and its effects on the plumbing industry.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Moldex Realty honors top producers

AWARDS are no Greek to the brokers and sales agents of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. But Greek will be the theme of the second quarter awarding ceremonies, titled "Pillars of Victory," designed to honor the MRMI's top producers belonging to its horizontal and vertical sales networks. The ceremonies will be held on Aug. 20, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Fishing Village Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. Brokers and agents who posted the biggest production during the past quarter will receive trophies, plaques, special bonuses and cash prizes. They will also be included in the prestigious Moldex Gallery of Achievers.

Continuing education program on realty

A SEMINAR on real estate will be conducted by Pareb-Marikina Valley Realtors Board Inc. on Sept. 1 and 8 from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Legend Hotel, Pioneer corner Madison Street, Mandaluyong City. MVRB president Lucia S. Jocson said the participants will earn the required hours to qualify for the renewal of license. For particulars, call up the MVRB secretariat at 913-4741, 532-0823 or 427-9721.

American Standard lauds new Philippine president

ARANAS

AMERICAN Standard, one of the world's largest manufacturers of bathroom fixtures, announced the appointment of Arnel B. Aranas as the first Filipino president since the company became a publicly listed corporation in 1990.

Aranas rose from the ranks to assume key positions in the company and has gained extensive experience in direct selling, corporate account management, engineering and plumbing programs, and other aspects of the business.

As the new president, he is tasked to guide American Standard's policy of further broadening its market through product research, project marketing and exportation under a Filipino style of leadership.

Megaworld taps European property market

MEGAWORLD International, the international marketing arm of premier property developer Megaworld Corp. has expanded its market coverage from Asia and Australia to Europe with the establishment of representative sales offices in Italy, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The offices are located in Rome and Milan in Italy, Munich and Cologne in Germany, Madrid in Spain and London in the United Kingdom. The London office also covers the Irish market.

Megaworld International managing director Marivic M. Acosta revealed that the company's marketing operations in Europe started during the second quarter of the year. To jumpstart the European campaign, marketing officers and staff for the various representative offices were recruited and trained in their respective areas by a team of Megaworld executives.

Although other Filipino property companies are jumping on the international marketing bandwagon, Acosta said the Megaworld group is well-appointed in the global marketplace because of the wide range of projects—from high-end to medium-cost—that the company and its subsidiaries offer.

Said Acosta: "In a market where the customer relies to a great extent on the word of the sales and marketing person and on the reputation of the company he represents, Megaworld's solid track record in project completion and the brand identity that it has established, especially among Filipinos abroad, have given it an edge in attracting many would-be homeowners."

Another advantage of Megaworld International is its strong alliances with reputable overseas marketing companies and brokers. Apart from recruiting sales agents and networking with independent brokers, these partners supply the necessary logistics in setting up the office—from office space and equipment to manpower requirements.

In addition to representative offices in Asia-Pacific and Europe, Megaworld is looking up to set up additional sales and marketing posts in North America, particularly in Canada and the United States.

Before making a bid for the European market, the company had established a presence in key Japanese locations such as Tokyo, Kyushu, Fukushima and Kobe and in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Drumming up interest in construction tech upgrade

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FILIPINOS are said to be a "reactive" race. They would only see the dentist when their teeth ache. They would only call for civil engineers or maintenance help when their buildings or houses are on the verge of collapse.

"*Walang* maintenance check unless *babagsak na ang bahay o magkaroon ng* Cherry Hills tragedy" as Maintenance Association of the Philippines (Maphil) president Ramon Elias Ortiz puts it.

And now that almost every country is making technology as the very foundation of its construction industry, the umbrella organization of technological professions in the country—the Philippine Technological Council—is set to infuse interest in technology among all local engineers.

The PTC is inviting companies and organizations that can showcase the latest trends in construction technology to the 2001 engineering exposition on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at the Philippine Trade and Training Center on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City. The PTC includes as its members the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers and the United Architects of the Philippines.

Lacking in technology

PTC president Augie Soliman described the field of Philippine construction as "lacking" in technology—a condition present in all other fields of Filipino engineering.

Soliman stressed that local engineers involved in the construction industry should be competitive. He observed that a lot of foreign contractors are involved in local construction projects not just because these projects are foreign funded, but also because local engineers are still weak in construction technology.

Philippine Welding Society director Efren Ibañez said Filipino engineers need a push in advancing their technological know-how. Otherwise, their employment as engineers may be at stake.

Meanwhile, the PTC also launched the Filipino engineers' registry, which will help put up a network among engineering organizations in member economies. The registry will help prepare Filipino engineers as they enter the Apec-level field.

Maintenance technology

The Maphil is also expected to showcase maintenance technology in the exposition. Ortiz said maintenance is also an important aspect of technology and engineering. Maintenance-conscious organizations, he reiterated, are more productive as they prevent or reduce the downtime of their machines.

"When machines are not being used in your homes or offices, you have to maintain them well. When peak months come, these equipment could work double time and you would have no problem," he said.

14 housing sites lined up for ₱69-M loan

THE NATIONAL Home Mortgage Finance Corp. has lined up for a P69-milllon financing assistance 14 urban poor housing sites under the agency's community mortgage program, according to NHMPC president Angelico T. Salud.

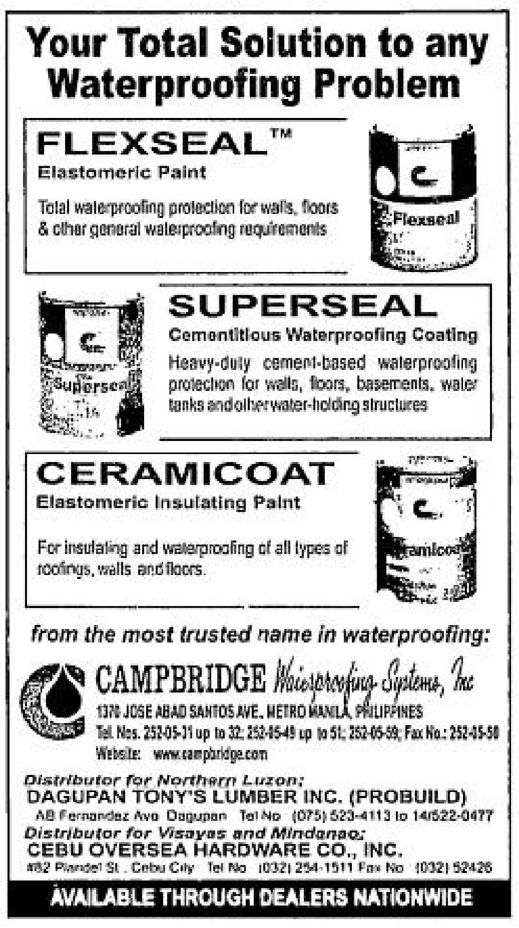
Nine of these projects had been issued letters of guaranty of payment with a total loan value of P49.6-million following initial evaluation of the loan documents for these projects, while five sites had passed accreditation for loans amounting to P19.76-million, Salud said.

CMP loans are microfinancing packages extended by the NHMFC to community associations of informal settlers belonging to the lowest 30 percent of the income population to finance the purchase of the land they occupy or to where they will be resettled, including for land development of the sites and housing construction or improvement.

The project sites already issued letters of guaranty of loan payment are Armal Village Neighborhood Association, Pasig City, for P20.4 million; Faustina Karatig II Homeowners Association (HOA), Quezon City, P1.29 million; Balsancat HOA, Pasig City, P22.74 million; Christian Mariners HOA, P1.02 million; Pag-asa Jereos HOA, P1.06 million;

Mayang Pula HOA, Phases VI-VII, Dolores dela Fuente and Mario Espiritu Property, Quezon City, P1.5 million; Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Joan of Arc, DBR Property, Quezon City, P920,248; Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Joan of Arc, Villaret Property, Quezon City, P432,900; and Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Joan of Arc, Ligaya Dizon Property, QC, P300,000.

The urban poor sites accredited include Happynest HOA, Iloilo City, P2.97 million; Libis Kaunlaran HOA, San Mateo, Rizal, P8.87 million; New Heights HOA, Batasan Hills, QC, P1.26 million; Sagrada Pamilya HOA, Parañaque City, P6 million; and E. D. Gaspar Estate HOA, Novaliches, QC, P660,000.



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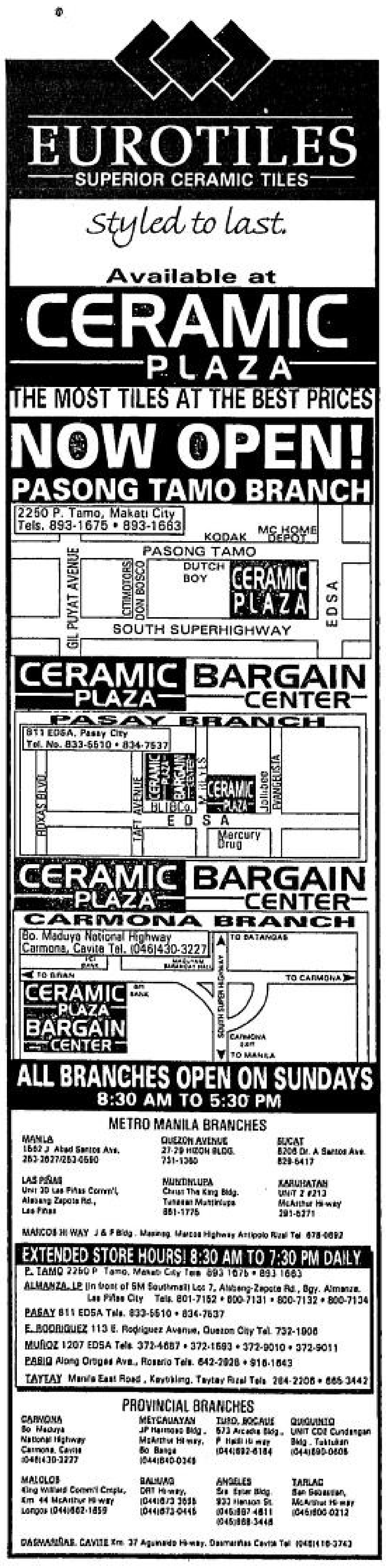

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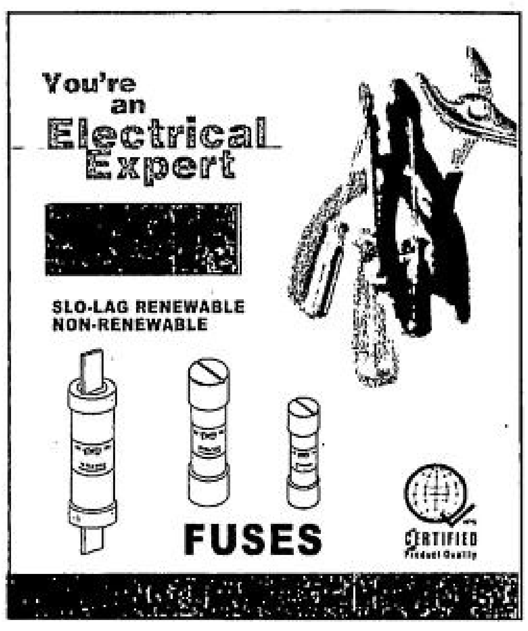

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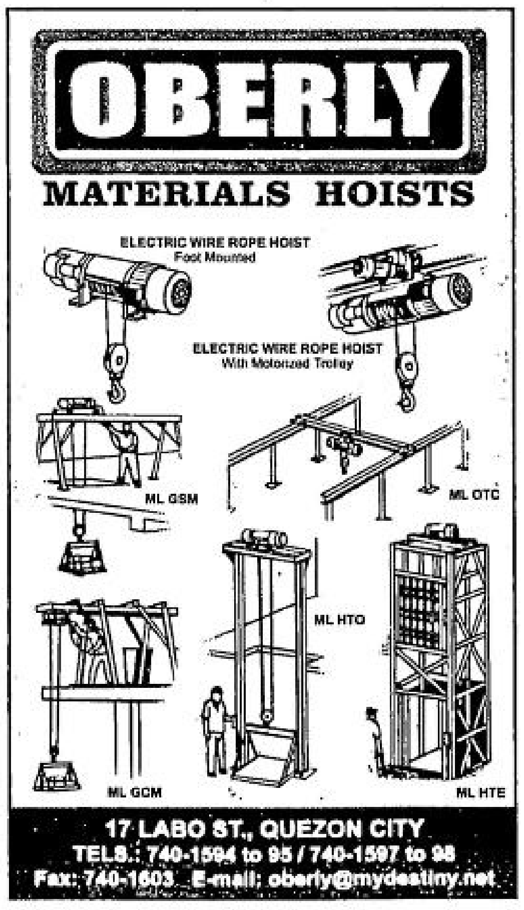

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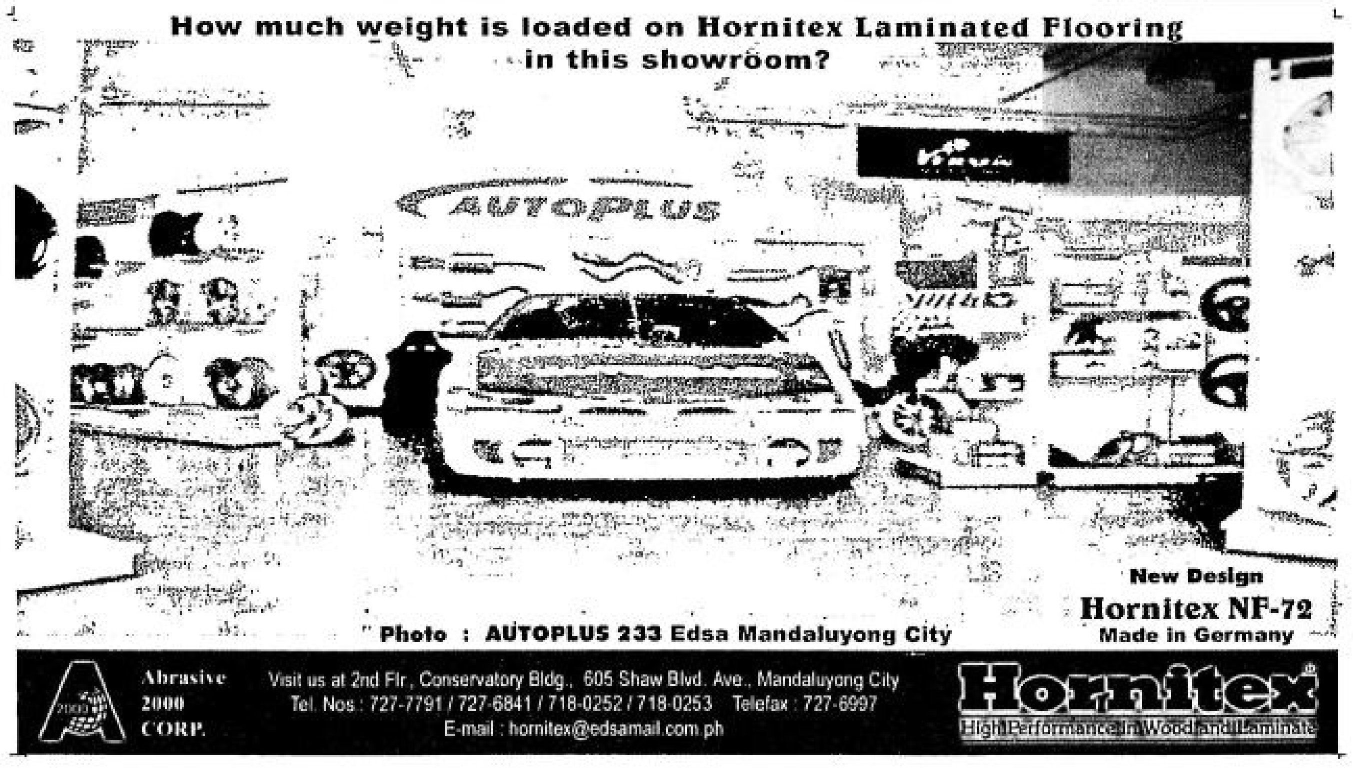

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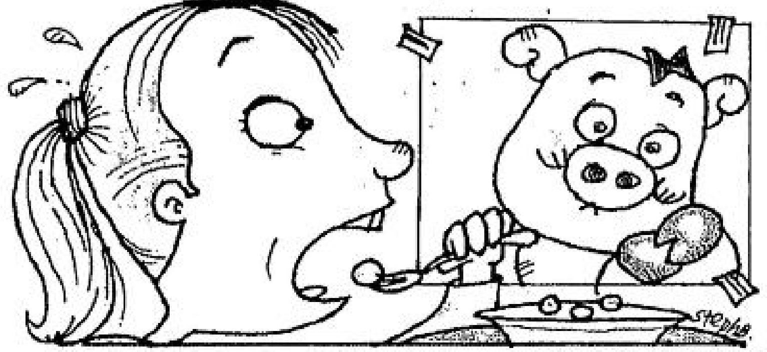
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Are you a dysfunctional eater or exerciser?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Dysfunctional habits fall somewhere between healthy behavior and full-blown disorder. If you're not aware of what you're doing and seek change, these habits can reach the extremes

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WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

SOME people like their coffee piping hot; others like it lukewarm. Some people enjoy walking outdoors; others only want to walk on a treadmill. We all have our own peculiar habits and beliefs when it comes to eating and exercising. The name of the game is "different strokes for different folks." There is nothing wrong with believing that apple pie should always be accompanied by vanilla ice cream, otherwise it is not worth eating. There is also nothing wrong with thinking that kick-boxing is the worst workout invented even though your friends think it is the hottest workout to hit the planet. However, some habits and beliefs are stranger than others.

These "strange" habits do not classify you as a person with an eating disorder like anorexia or bulimia nor do they put you in the same category as an exercise addict, but they are definitely not considered normal either. They are dysfunctional habits—somewhere between healthy behavior and a full-blown eating/exercise disorder. The danger is that if you are not aware of what you are doing and seek the change, these dysfunctional habits and beliefs can reach the extremes.

Difference between a dysfunction and a disorder

Dysfunctional habits and extreme disorders are associated with an obsession to lose weight or look good. The happiness and self-worth of a dysfunctional person and someone with a disorder are

ARE YOU/ p.C2

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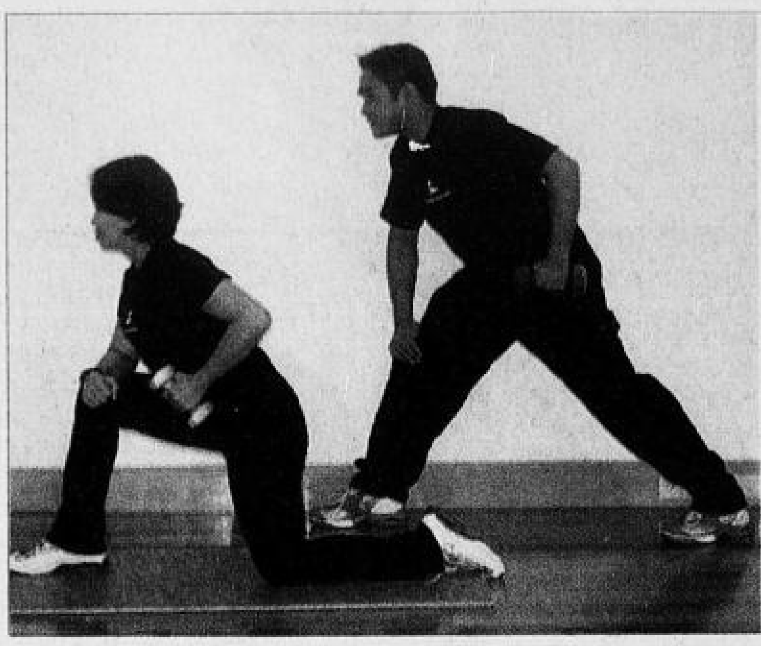


EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Triceps kick back

FIRMS up the muscles at the back of the arms.

Equipment:

Dumbbells

Exercise technique:

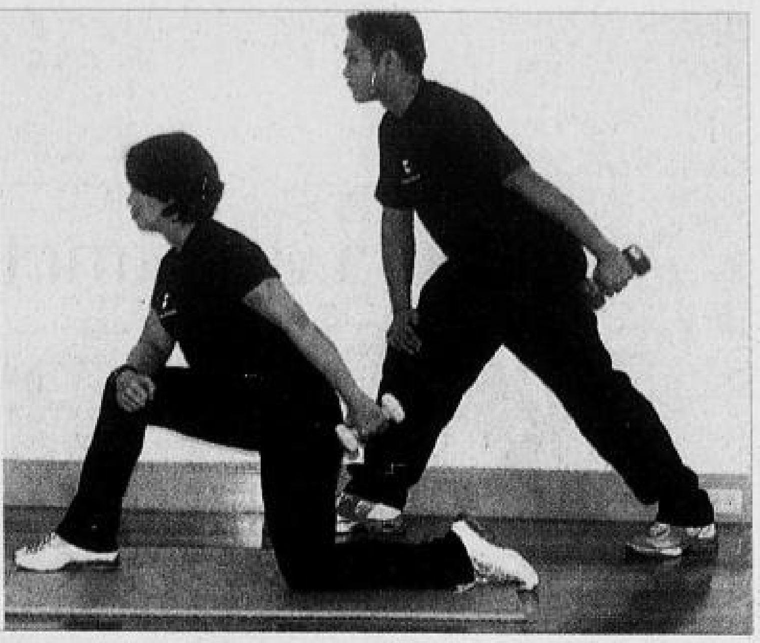
1. Stand or kneel with one leg in front of you.
2. Lean forward from the hips and place one hand on your thigh or elbow on your knee for support.
3. With the other arm, hold the dumbbell close to your body with your elbow facing the back.
4. Maintain this position and straighten your arm behind you.
5. Bend elbow back to starting position.
6. Do the desired number of repetitions then switch to the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Choose whichever position (standing or kneeling) is comfortable for you.
2. Make sure to keep your back straight and not rounded as you lean forward from the hips.
3. Keep your chest lifted and lightly contract your abdominal muscles throughout the entire exercise.
4. Start the movement by squeezing the triceps rather than flinging the dumbbell backward.
5. Bend elbow back to starting position.
6. Avoid jerking your elbow joint as you straighten the arm.

Repetitions:

Do one set of 12-15 repetitions. Rest. Do another one or two sets if you want to.



Are you a dysfunctional eater or exerciser?

(From page C1)

directly influenced by their food and exercise habits.

The difference is that, according to Frances Berg, author of "Afraid to Eat: Children and Teens in Weight Crisis," people with eating/exercise disorders think about food and exercise 90-100 percent of the time while a dysfunctional eater or exerciser will think about these things 20-60 percent of the time.

There is also a difference in the intensity of feelings. A dysfunctional person will be depressed for a few hours when the scale says he or she has gained a few pounds. A person with a disorder will be depressed for days.

A normal person will simply say to herself, "Okay, I've gained a few pounds. I've been eating too many desserts for the last couple of weeks. It's time to cut back." This is said without making any judgments on her character or without saying any negative things to herself.

How to tell if you have a dysfunction?

A few years ago, nutritionists at the University of Arizona developed the "Eating Issues and Body Image Continuum," which is a five-category description of people who have no issues with eating, people who have a healthy concern, people who are obsessed or dysfunctional, people with disruptive eating patterns, and people who have eating disorders. I have added the exercise component. Not all people fit neatly into just one category. You might find that you have habits that are spread out over several categories.

No issues

- You are not concerned about what others think about what and how much you eat.
- Food and exercise are an important part of your life but only a small part of your life is spent thinking about them.
- You trust your body to tell you what and how much to eat.
- Body image is not an issue for you.
- Your feelings about your body are not determined by society's concept of an ideal body shape.
- You exercise because it makes you feel good.

Healthy concern

- You nourish your body so it will have strength and energy to help you achieve your physical goals.
- You might weigh yourself more than you would like but you enjoy eating and you balance your pleasure from eating with a concern for a healthy body.
- You base your body image equally on social standards and your own concept.
- You pay attention to your body/appearance because it is important to you, but it only occupies a small part of your day.
- You try to follow dietary guidelines for healthy eating.
- Your reasons for choosing an exercise program are equally balanced between how much you enjoy it and how much you think it will improve your appearance and your health.
- When you miss an exercise session, you are bothered and you resolve to make it up but you are not affected emotionally.

Obsessed/dysfunctional

- You are afraid of getting fat.
- You think about food and exercise a lot.
- You wish you could change how much you want to eat and what you are hungry for. It's hard for you to enjoy eating with others.
- You spend a significant time comparing your body with other people's.
- You choose an exercise program based primarily on how you think it will improve your appearance even if you don't enjoy it. When you miss an exercise session, you feel guilt and fear of getting fat.

Disruptive eating and exercise patterns

- You have tried diet pills, laxatives or vomiting.
- You have fasted or avoided eating for long periods to lose or maintain your weight.
- You feel strong when you can restrict how much you eat.
- Your body image keeps you from dating or finding someone who will treat you the way you want to be treated.
- You wish you could change the way you look in the mirror.
- You choose an exercise program based only on how many calories you think it will burn and even though it hurts you.
- You double your exercise time if you think you have eaten something fattening.

Eating and exercise disorders

- You are afraid to eat in front of others.
- You are terrified of eating fat.
- You regularly stuff yourself and then exercise, vomit, take diet pills or laxatives to get rid of the calories. You hate your body and often isolate yourself from others.
- You don't believe others when they tell you that you look okay.
- You exercise excessively even though you are sick, injured, or fatigued because you are so scared of getting fat.
- The most powerful fear in your life is gaining weight.

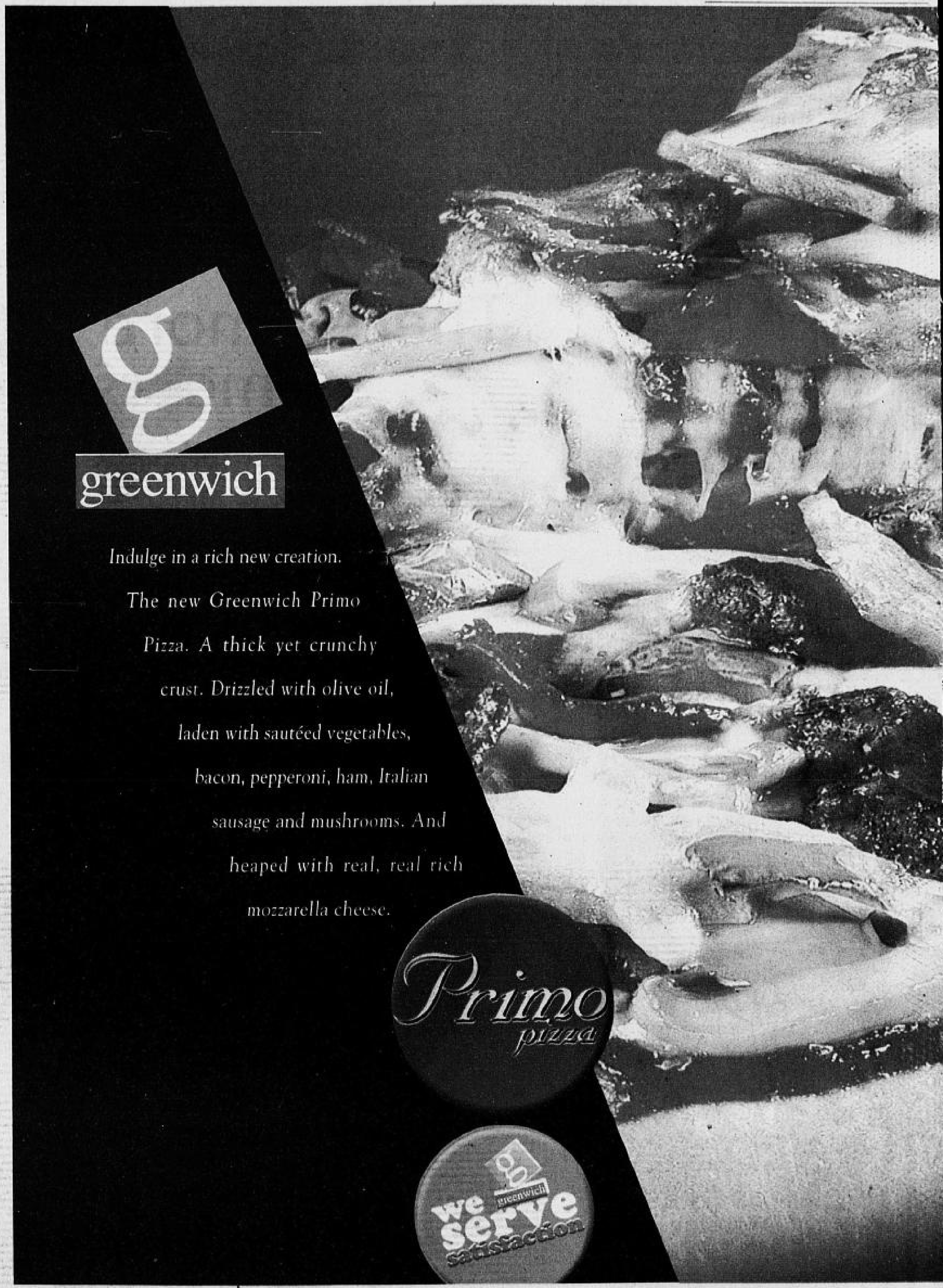
What to do

If you recognize that you have a dysfunction, now is the time to do something about it before it becomes a full-fledged disorder. According to the American Dietetic Association, there are two sets of issues and behaviors that have to be addressed: Those directly relating to food, exercise and weight and those involving your relationship with yourself and others. A nutritionist and fitness professional can help you with the first issue by teaching you the right way to lose weight. The second issue is something that only a psychologist or psychiatrist can deal with.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold a Fitness Seminar on Sept. 1 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman Campus. Gym topics: Exercise Guidelines for Children, Triathlon Training Program and The Latest in Abdominal Exercise Research. Aerobics topics: High-Low, Pop Aero, Kich-boxing and Aerobics-Attitude Action. For novice aerobics instructors: a three-hour workshop on "How to Create Choreography." There will be a special session on Heart Rate Monitoring. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

AFPP is inviting gym owners and managers to attend a free networking meeting on Aug. 18 at Island Cove Resort, Cavite. There will be a panel discussion on "The Gym-Spa Connection." Call Lourdes or Edith at 252-9906/9170.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.ph for past articles and exercises.



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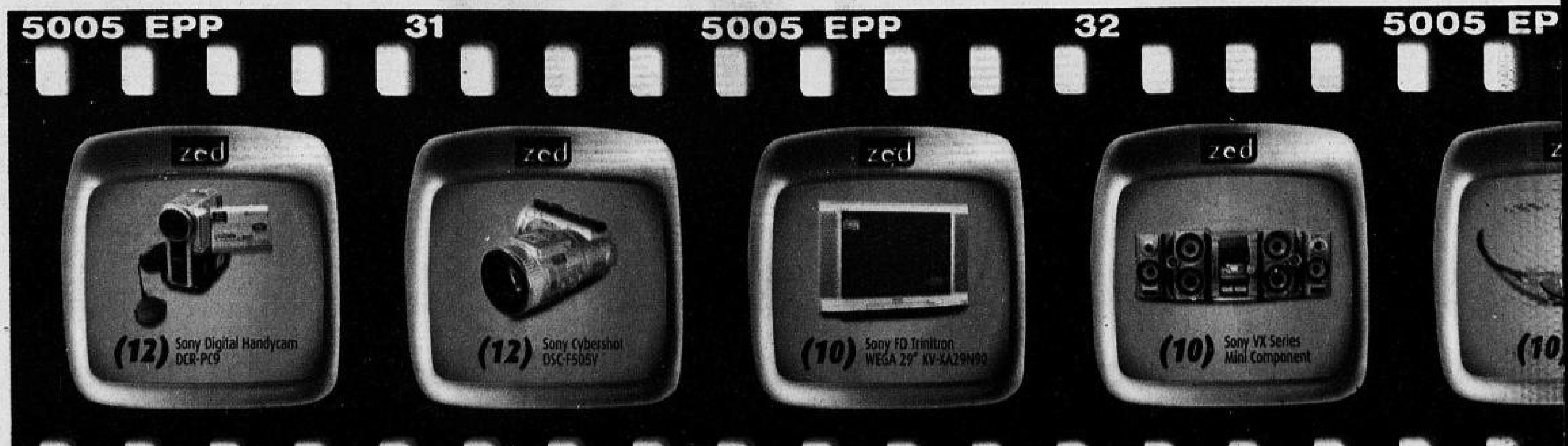

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Promo until October 7, 2001.

Evil spirits molest, scare and kill employees

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

INTERFERENCE by malevolent spirits in the affairs of business enterprises and factories is real. And just because the office is new does not guarantee that it will be free of spirit molestations.

The following are only a few examples of how spirits disturb the operations of businesses that I have personally been involved with. Names and places were altered to maintain the privacy of those concerned.

In the mid-'80s the manufacturer of a well-known consumer product in Metro Manila had recurring problems with factory equipment. Brand-new machines would break down or malfunction for no reason at all. Maintenance people and highly trained technicians were always at a loss to pinpoint the cause of the problem. By all standards of the equipment's supplier, they should have functioned smoothly, but they didn't. Security guards reported seeing spirits roaming in the place at night. Some factory equipment would suddenly start without anybody touching or coming near them. Finished products would suddenly be found scattered all over the factory premises in the morning. Many other unexplainable incidents occurred.

Upon the request of the company's president, I went there with a clairvoyant psychic who diagnosed the problem to have been caused by evil elemental spirits known locally in esoteric circles as "*encantos de diablo.*" The psychic saw and talked to the spirits telepathically and were persuaded to leave the place. As a result, the problems the company had been experiencing prior to our visit ceased completely.

A large commercial bank opened a branch in a busy part of the metropolis. Soon afterward, its president at the time (who was a classmate of mine at AIM) noticed a big slump in their business. Employees were seeing spirits all over the place and the bank had an eerie feeling or atmosphere.

The same clairvoyant friend of mine diagnosed the problem to have been caused by a previous occupant of the building who was into black magic, sorcery and witchcraft. She attracted the bad spirits to the place. Fortunately, they were easily persuaded to leave the bank premises and go elsewhere.

> Strange happenings in offices and factories should not be ignored just because they don't make sense

Immediately after that, the whole atmosphere in the bank became lighter and brighter and the people no longer felt afraid to work overtime at night.

Puzzling deaths

The worst problem I have encountered was the case of a car accessory manufacturing company located somewhere in Metro Manila. Sometime in the early '90s, the company president, who knew me personally, called me because of a puzzling series of deaths they were experiencing.

"In October last year," he related, "one of our employees died. We didn't take much notice of that. Then in November, another employee in the same department died. In December, no deaths occurred, but in January of this year, another employee in the same department died. Those people were young and had no history of any serious ailment. So we began to suspect some extraordinary or supernatural cause of the deaths."

I asked him if they did anything different or new before October of the previous year. After thinking for a while, the company president told me, "The only thing I can think of is that we cleaned a big warehouse which was not being used, to give way for a new executive parking area. That's all."

"I think that action may have something to do with the deaths of your employees," I told him.

Shortly afterward, I visited the factory alone. Just outside the old warehouse, I already felt very strong negative energies. I tried to get inside but hardly had walked a few yards when I felt a strong energy forcing me out. I ran out of the warehouse with shortness of breath. I felt so many negative entities inside the warehouse, especially toward the other end.

I told the company president I would need help in exorcising the place of the malevolent spirits. When I brought the exorcist together with his mediums, we learned the following facts:

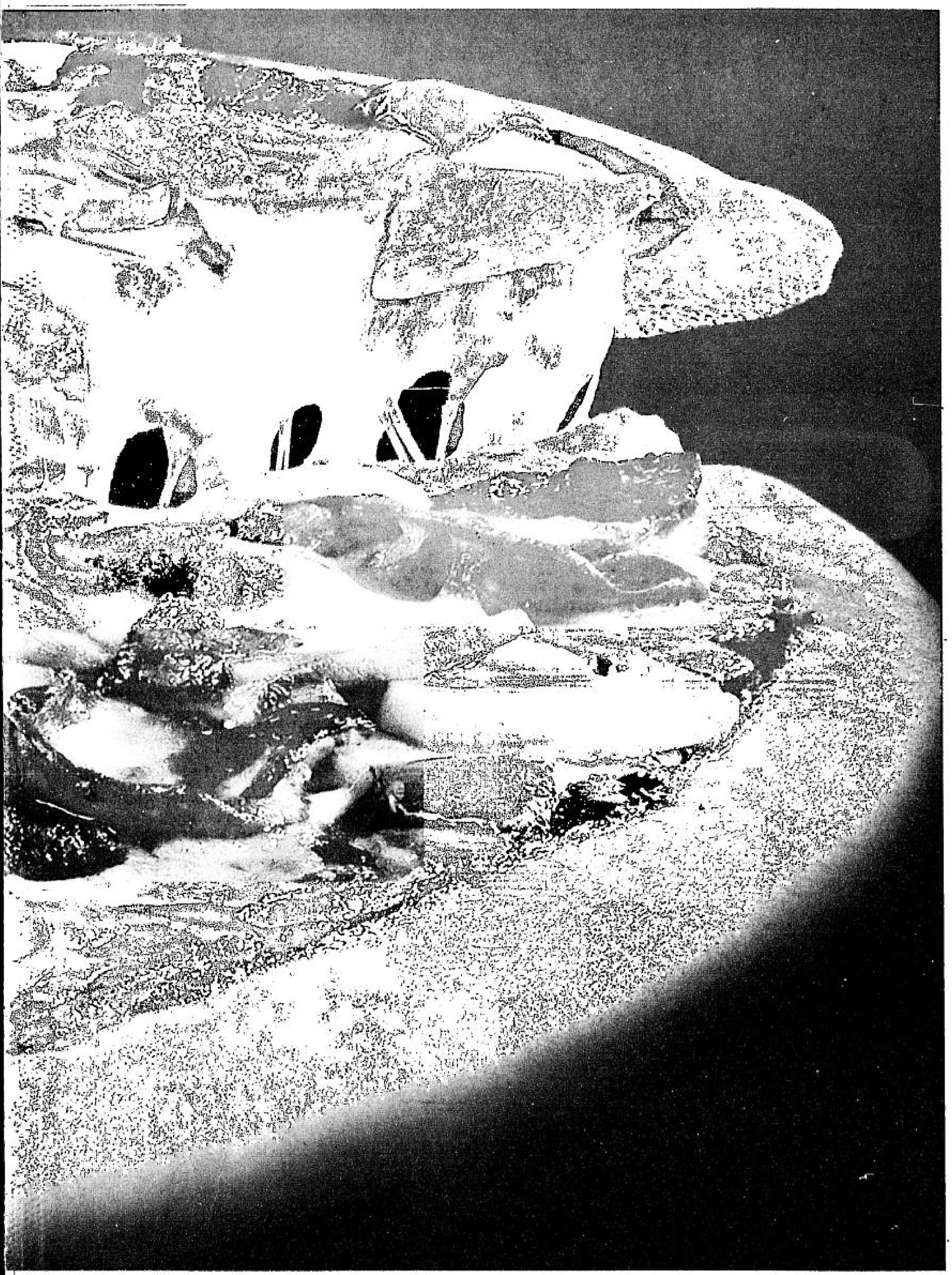
- There were over 500 negative *engkantos* in the warehouse.
- They admitted to have caused the deaths of three employees.
- They were killed because they were noisy.

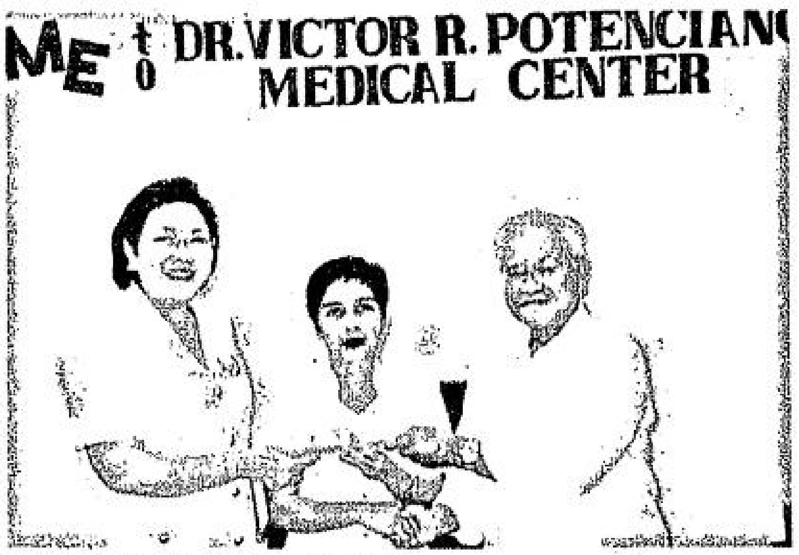
When I asked the president whether this information made sense to him, he replied, "Yes, it does." According to him, these employees all worked in the same department near the old warehouse. They often worked in the evening until morning. To prevent them from sleeping on the job, they would make noise and have the stereo turned on very loud. This might have angered the spirits.

When requested to leave the premises, the spirits refused, so the exorcist was forced to "destroy" them. I don't really understand how this could be done because they were spirits and couldn't be destroyed. However, after about two or three hours of spiritual struggle, the exorcist reported that all 500 of them, including their heads or princes, had been "destroyed." Since then, no deaths in the factory had been reported anymore.

I can relate several more scary stories of spirit molestations in business enterprises, offices and factories, but the above examples will suffice to show that strange happenings in business offices should never be ignored, just because "they don't make sense."

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.




ME t o DR.VICTOR R. POTENCIANO MEDICAL CENTER

NO SMOKING CAMPAIGN

Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (VRPMC), the 1st ISO 9001-certified hospital in Metro Manila, launched its hospital-wide no-smoking campaign recently. Dubbed "Baga Mo, Alagaan Mo: Dalawa Lung Yan!," the campaign involves the entire VRPMC staff in promoting good health habits and giving up smoking. Cora Bitoon, Nursing Division head (center), receives her prize from Virma Vergel de Dios, hospital administrator and Dr. Conrado Dayrit, medical director, for winning the slogan contest held in conjunction with the above campaign.

New training program and postgrad course at SLMC

THE INSTITUTE of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at St. Luke's Medical Center is currently accepting applicants for its five-year Residency Training Program for the school year 2002.

Deadline for the submission of application forms is on Aug. 15. Call St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at 723-0301 local 4155, or e-mail ortho@stluke.com.ph.

Meanwhile, SLMC's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will hold its 5th postgraduate course, "Emerging Issues in OB-GYN," Aug. 21-22 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Invited foreign speaker, Soon Chye Ng, M.D., an expert in reproductive endocrinology and infertility from the National University Hospital of Singapore, will give a series of lectures on the genetic aspect of male infertility, the current status of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Insemination (Icsi), and cloning and its future.

Call St. Luke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at 723-1212 and 727-5542, or e-mail obgyn@stluke.com.ph.

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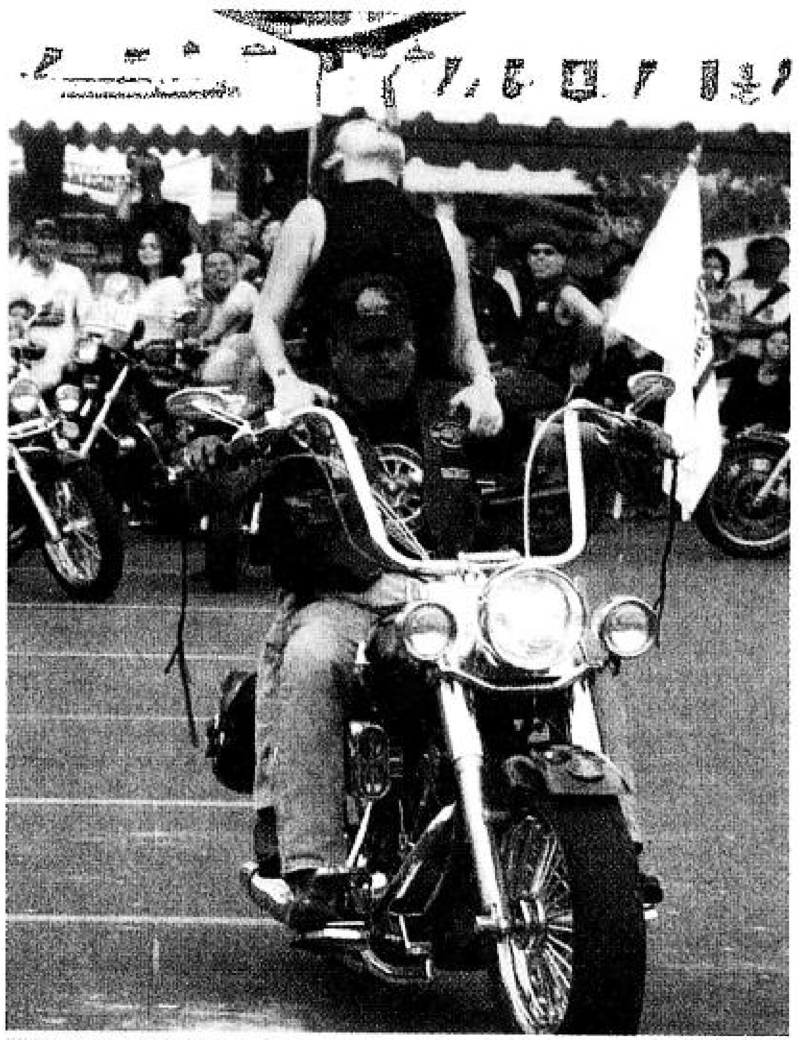
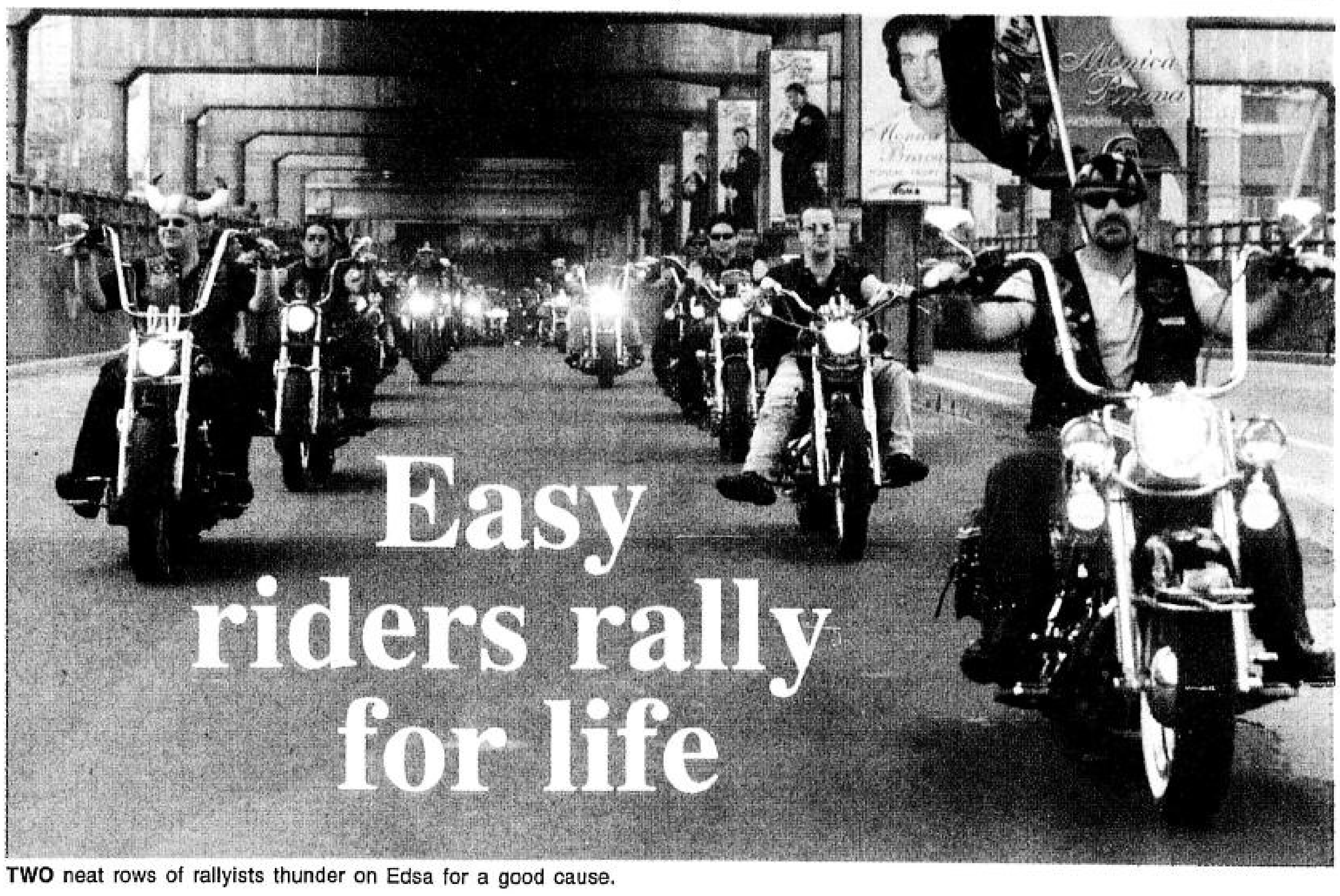


THE EAT-THE-HOTDOG game is one of the highlights of the Bikers for Life rally.



Easy riders rally for life

TWO neat rows of rallyists thunder on Edsa for a good cause.

LOOKS of these motorbikers can be deceiving, for underneath the leather and the tattoos are people ready to lend their support to a worthy cause.

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO
PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

> Were they tattooed? Some were. Did they behave like a pack of wolves? On the contrary, some 700 bikers became angels of hope as they raised funds for children with leukemia

FOR SEVERAL hours one recent morning, over 700 motorbikes of all shapes and sizes—from Harley Davidsons to sports bikes to scooters—were the kings of the road.

The motorcycles thundered in a two-by-two formation from the Caltex station on Julia Vargas Street in Ortigas to the Goldcrest parking lot at the Ayala Center to kick off Bikers for Life, the biggest bikers' rally Manila had ever seen.

The bikers came from all over the city, members of different motorcycle clubs such as Bikers Unlimited, Club 200, Big Bike Association for Touring and Sports, Law Enforcement Riders Association of the Philippines, Haruroot, Classic Riders Group, Force A and the Mad Dog Motorcycle Club. Many wore leather jackets, others, tattoos while some were clean cut. Some were old and many were young. But no matter their affiliation and appearance, they all converged for one reason: to lend much-needed support to the 110 poor children stricken with leukemia under the care of the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (Life).

Life is a nonstock, nonprofit foundation established in February 1995 to provide care and treatment to poor leukemic children in the Philippines.

Life chair Dr. Alendre Caviles stressed during the bikers rally that leukemia in children can be cured but the cost of the treatment—which is continuous for two to three years—is very high at P250,000 per child.

This was why the big fund-raising event was a big boost to Life as it would mean continued care and treatment to the children for the organization that depended solely on donations.

Once around

Around 40 of the leukemic children from ages 6-16, along with their parents and the caregivers at Life, came out to meet many of the bikers. Many of the bikers volunteered to give the children as well as their parents and Life's staff a ride around the Goldcrest parking lot.

"It was the thrill of a lifetime for them," said Life secretary Cora Cruz, referring to the children who had never ridden a motorcycle before.

Andy Marsh of MDMC, wearing his trademark hat with the Viking horns, was a particular favorite of the kids who got to ride on his 1997 Harley Davidson Dyna low rider. Another endearing sight was a 5-year-old biker giving 6-year-old Life patient Glendreal Lim a ride on his 50-cc Yamaha.

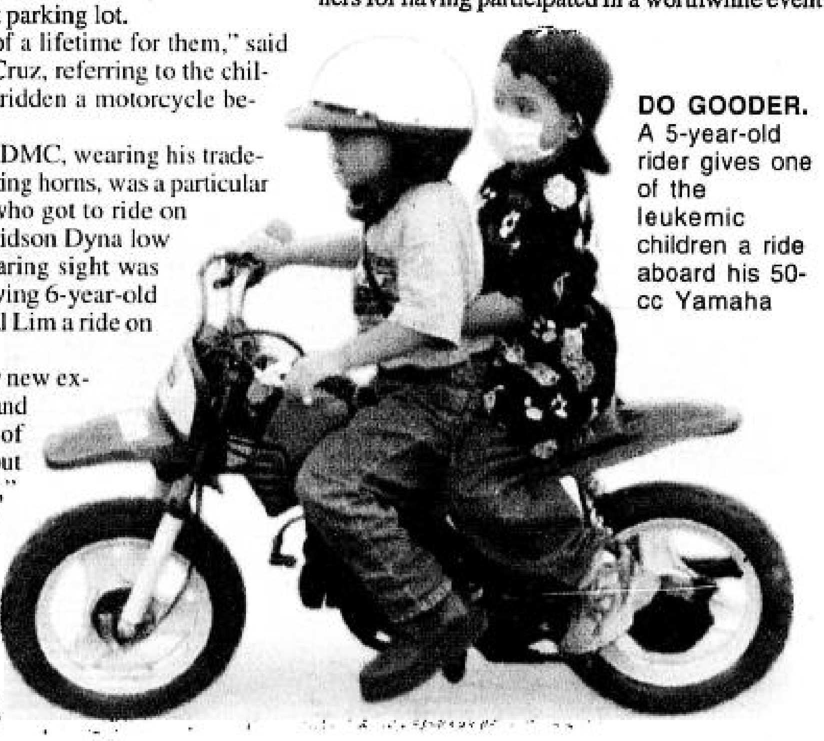
"It was an entirely new experience for the kids and for us. We have a lot of fund-raising events but this was different," Cruz added. Besides raising funds, the members of the different motorcycle clubs also donated blood badly needed by the children.

In addition, the children witnessed competitions for the best bikes. The Honda Valkyric of Frank Woolf of Freedom Riders was named best cruiser and overall best in show. Haruroot president Nonoy Cabrera's Honda Helix was best maxi scooter while Bikers Unlimited's Julian Goitia had the best sportsbike. Malo Manguiat's BMW RS650 was best in dual sport.

The children also stayed on for fun and games such as the hotdog eating contest and the slow race where the last bikes to cross the finish line were named the winners.

The kids went home around 5 p.m. and the party continued with a free concert given by some of the country's top bands, such as Alamid, Rivermaya, Razorback, Mojofly, The Dawn, Session Road, the Flintstones, Stella Ruiz, 604 and Pinwheel.

One lucky buyer of a raffle ticket went home with a brand-new Kymco motorcycle but, as the bikers said, they all went home feeling like winners for having participated in a worthwhile event.



DO GOODER. A 5-year-old rider gives one of the leukemic children a ride aboard his 50-cc Yamaha

A SICK child gets the ride of a lifetime aboard a fabulous Harley.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Is annual prophylaxis and tooth extraction included in the dental coverage of my healthcare program with MEDICard?
Yes, annual prophylaxis and tooth extraction is included in your standard dental care program. Dental prophylaxis or simply the cleaning of teeth, can be availed once a year from any of our over 300 accredited dentists throughout the country. Likewise, tooth extraction can also be availed from any accredited dental care provider. However, this is limited to simple tooth extraction. Extraction of ankylosed tooth, impacted tooth, extraction requiring surgery, etc. are not part of the dental program.

Meet your MEDICard Team

For more than 2 years now, MEDICard members have been delighted by the caring and professional medical services rendered Dr. Eden P. Perez-Macalalag, our accredited pediatrician at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC). Dr. Macalalag, graduated Doctor of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas and received her pediatric residency training from the University of the Philippines-PGH. In a joint program sponsored by the Department of Internal Medicine and Department of Pediatrics of the same institution, she earned her fellowship in Allergology and Clinical Immunology. Doc Eden, when not treating patients spends her time cooking and caring for her husband, Dr. Michael Eufemio Macalalag and their two children, Mervyn and Marion. For consultations, you may visit Dr. Macalalag at Room 1104, South Tower, Cathedral Heights Building from Mondays to Fridays, 1 to 3 PM.

Meet Dr. Vic Fileto T. Chua, MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Hospital in West Fairview, Quezon City. Doc Chua specializes in Internal Medicine with training from FEU-NRMF and later pursued a Diplomate and Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine from the Philippine College of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Dr. Chua has been an accredited service provider for more than 7 years now and is married to Dr. Ana Marie Chua, MEDICard's Assistant Medical Coordinator, also at the same hospital. He is also the current Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine of United Doctors Medical Center. For medical availments at FEU-NRMF, visit the coordinator's office at room 217 of the Marian Medical Arts Building, from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Dr. Nenita A. Collantes is MEDICard's accredited specialist in Manila Central University Hospital (MCU). Doc Nenita, earned her degree in Medicine also from MCU. She specializes in Internal Medicine with subspecialization in Nephrology. With over 18 years of practice in her field, she has earned a Diplomate and Fellowship to the Philippine College of Physicians and to the Philippine Society of Nephrologists. For consultations, you may visit Dr. Collantes at room 11 of MCU, every Mondays and Thursdays, from 10 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

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